



WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOLS - DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE Mr. Benjamin A. Winans

While it seems like just yesterday we were welcoming our students back to start our 2020 school year, the reality is that the summer and fall seasons have gone and gave way to winter which brings with it the holiday season. During this holiday season our district reflects on all that we have to be thankful for. While the last four months of school have been anything but normal, we are truly thankful to be able to have our staff and students continuing to work together to make this another great school year. It is a joy to work in a community which continues to support the learning processes that are taking place each day in our district. We certainly appreciate all that you do to assist us and welcome your input as the learning process includes many different aspects and without everyone working together as a group we cannot be successful. We are also very thankful and fortunate to have a wonderful group of staff members who work hard to make certain that our students receive the high quality education that our district is known for and expects. Again, I applaud your efforts and appreciate all that you do.

Speaking of education being a group effort, we recently completed our parent/teacher conferences. This annual event again looked a little different for some this year as we offered the option to have virtual conferences with our staff members. Overall, we saw our participation in the conferences remain at about the same level. This is a testament to our parents and their willingness to be involved in the educational process for their children. Our staff appreciates those who were able to attend the conference and receive updates on the progress of your child. Please know that we welcome parents scheduling a meeting with your child's teacher at any point throughout the school year. If you were unable to attend parent/teachers conferences and would like to meet with our staff members, I encourage you to contact the school and schedule a time to do so. Once again, communication is key throughout the educational process to achieve desired outcomes.

At this time academically we have successfully put the first quarter of the year behind us and are well into the second quarter of the school year. The Ohio Department of Education has provided our staff with state content standards which are being introduced to students by our staff. I would be remiss if I did not mention the state mandated testing that continues to be updated. Our staff members are working to keep ahead of the testing updates and provide our students with the most up to date information so that we will see quality results on these assessments. Our expectations are that we will continue to see changes in testing, so we will continue to work with staff and students to do our best to prepare them for the assessments. While we may not all agree with the current educational mandates, it is key that we continue to work together as we labor through this time of educational transformation. Our hope is that in working with the legislators, the Ohio Department of Education, and our local boards we can create an educational system that will provide high academic outcomes.

As we transition from the fall into the winter our concern as far as hazardous weather situations shift from fog to snow and ice. Just as has been the case in the fall, we will look to make sure travel conditions are favorable for both our district transportation and student drivers. Typically, snow and ice are more consistent than fog, but as I have noted in past updates due to the size of our district conditions can vary. We ask that student drivers use caution and give themselves extra travel time when winter conditions arise. We will continue to use a common sense approach when calling delays and cancellations as the safe transportation of our students to and from school is of great importance to us.

I also want to acknowledge our staff across the district who were involved in the organization of this year's Veterans' Day assemblies. While these assemblies were held virtually, our staff and students again went above and beyond to make certain our veterans were recognized. I speak for all involved in the Wayne Trace Local Schools when I say thank you for your service and sacrifice which has allowed us to enjoy freedom each day.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's educational experience at Wayne Trace, feel free to contact your building principal or superintendent.

Go Raiders!

Benjamin A. Winans
Superintendent

STUDENT SERVICES Mrs. Laurie DeLong, Director

Merry Christmas! The school year is going very quickly! Some events to look forward to in 2021 are a virtual "Coffee & Dessert" Parent/Professional Training, with information on Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Board of DD, and about such things as Waivers, Social Security, and Guardianship. This will be coming in late February/early March.

After the Christmas holiday, a date will be announced for the spring Early Childhood Screening, along with instructions on how to schedule an appointment. For any questions regarding the Special Education Department, which includes the psychologist, therapists, nursing, parent mentor, and preschool, you may contact us at 419-587-3414. We wish you a safe and healthy New Year!

PAYNE ELEMENTARY Mr. Paul Jones, Principal

The pandemic has changed the way we have conducted business this year at Payne Elementary. As of right now we still cannot have assemblies or programs in our school. This has been definitely different for our community as our programs are always popular, but it has not been the end. As they say in show business, the show must go on! Our Veterans Day program was conducted in the auditorium as usual, with precautions and safe distancing observed. You can view the program on our web page at: https://www.waynetrace.org/payneelementary_home.aspx The program is in two parts, along with our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Lydia Farley's, "Veterans Day Video. Feel free to enjoy these as often as you like.

Since Christmas is right around the corner, we will also be doing the Christmas program in the same manner as our Veterans Day program. The program will be posted on our web site when completed for all to enjoy!

Nut Fundraiser

Payne Elementary's Terri Lynn Nut and Candy Fundraiser is online this year. To access this fundraiser please use the link <https://raiders.terri Lynn.com> This will be an ongoing fundraiser for the year. You will be able to order any time with a debit or credit card and it will be delivered to your door for a \$5 shipping fee no matter how large the order. Please inform any past customers of this website. We hope to have a successful fundraiser without personal contact. Thanks so much for supporting Payne Elementary students. Please call 419-263-2512 with any questions.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

If you were unable to attend Parent Teacher Conferences that were held on November 4-5, and would like to still schedule one, please contact your child's teacher at 419-263-2512.

Follow Payne Elementary on Twitter: @trace_wayne

Payne Elementary event cancellations will often be posted here, as well as recognition of students and staff, and the wonderful everyday things we do here at Wayne Trace Payne Elementary!

GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY Mr. Mark Lange, Principal

Thanksgiving is the time of year when we take a moment in our hectic lives to remember all of our blessings. Even though we are an elementary school, we certainly have many things to be thankful for. First of all, I would like to thank all of the students who have been amazing little troopers throughout this entire year. Covid has posed some very unique challenges, but our students have taken everything in stride and continue to dedicate themselves to being outstanding learners this school year. I would also like to thank the parents for working so hard to keep your students safe and Covid free. As of this writing, we have had no students test positive here at the Grover Hill building, and I have had only three staff members that have tested positive. This is a huge blessing as it means that we have, for the most part, been able to carry on with the important business of educating children without interruption.

I would also like to thank the teachers for their dedication, and all of the extra time that they have invested into making sure our students would be ready to do remote learning should the need arise. While some are very tech savvy, there are others that have really worked diligently to make sure that the transition to home learning would be as smooth as possible. From the first day of school, our objective as a staff has been to remain safe and do our best to protect ourselves when we are in public places so that we could continue to lead and teach our students here at

school, and I am so thankful for the job everyone has done to keep the school doors open and the children learning in-person. We, as a staff, are also thankful for the parents who have continued to monitor their children's health and to alert us to potential problems or have quarantined their children when needed.

Last week you might have noticed many of the Grover Hill teachers wearing jeans. I allowed staff members to wear jeans if they made a donation to our WTGHE Thanksgiving Dinner Drive. Mrs. Farley, our guidance counselor, took the lead on this community service project, and we will be blessing ten lucky families with a full Thanksgiving meal this week. Thanks to our staff's generosity, we are able to make such a positive impact upon our community.

Our "WTGHE Students of the Month" for October where Ryan H., Sloane S., Shannel W., Makenna M., Chandler S., Austin S., Shawna S., Aubrey O., Kenzie M., Kolson S., Corbin S., Kinlee M., Braylen R., Ashlyn M., Stefany L-C., and Kevin M. Congratulations to all of those who were nominated by their teachers. Their commitment to hard work, academic excellence, and respectful behavior certainly did not go unnoticed. Thanks for all of your accomplishments in the classroom and your contributions to the school community.

Before I wrap up my monthly article, I have a few reminders that I would like to share. As always, it is critical that parents call the school and notify us of your child's absence. The state has changed the laws regarding truancy, and it is more important than ever that we hear from you when your child will not be at school. It is also to your benefit to be sure to send in a note from your child's doctor or dentist if they missed school for an appointment. All of this information must be documented. You can call 419-399-4100, option #3 to let us know your child will be out or late to school. Please make sure to launder your child's mask at least once a week. As we head into cold and flu season, this reminder could not possibly be more important. Also, it is very important that you provide your child with a spare mask. Simply tucking an extra mask (in a plastic zip-lock) in their bookbag will mean that they will have one if they forget theirs, lose it, or it becomes soiled. We have received a supply of disposable masks but our supply is running very low.

Until next month, stay safe, enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday, and take time to remember all that you can be thankful for this season. The reasons are many!

Respectfully,
Mark Lange Principal

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL Mr. Mike Myers, Principal

December is right around the corner after a very busy month at Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School. Mr. Howe and I would like to thank the parents who participated in our recent parent-teacher conferences either virtually, by phone or in person. Communication with parents is an integral piece of a child's education. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your son/daughter, please call or email the teachers so that we can team together to provide the best possible education for our Wayne Trace students.

The social studies department organized this year's Veterans Day video. The video took place on Wednesday, November 11 at 8:15 am in all classrooms. The video featured the Wayne Trace High School band and choir as well as different speakers. A special thanks to Mrs. Gudakunst, Mrs. Chrissy Sinn, Mr. Gerber, Mr. Iwinski, and the student performers for organizing and participating in a very thoughtful Veterans' Day video. It was a very meaningful video and brought to light the sacrifices that our veterans and families endure for us to maintain the freedoms that we enjoy. Our veterans cannot be recognized and thanked enough for what they have done to protect our freedom!

Recently, our local chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 14 new juniors into NHS. The tapping ceremony was held on November 24 with parents and students in grades 10-12 in attendance. These students have met the academic requirements for induction and have demonstrated character, leadership, and service traits to our faculty that warrant this recognition. Congratulations NHS members and a many thanks to Miss Klopfenstein for advising our local chapter of the National Honor Society.

Lastly, I encourage everyone to get into the spirit of the Christmas season by attending our upcoming choir and band concerts. Attendance may be limited due to the health department pandemic mandates.

Go Raiders!
Mike Myers, Principal

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Wayne Trace Jr./Sr. High School teachers recently voted on the following Students of the Month for October: 7th Grade: Clay Stoller, 8th Grade: Broc Grimes, 9th Grade: Colin Beebe, 10th Grade: Ian Clevenger, 11th Grade: Kyle Klinker, 12th Grade: Cassidy Campbell. As part of their award each student received a "Raider Pride - Pay Forward" t-shirt. Congratulations Raiders!

Music Department News

We will be having our Christmas concerts for JH and HS bands and choirs on Dec. 7th and Dec. 14th. Both concerts will be at 7:00 pm in the high school gymnasium. We are very glad to be able to have a "modified" concert for families to enjoy!

BEEF RAFFLE - We are raffling off an entire steer! 10 chances to win approximately 60# of beef with a grand prize of beef and a YETI Tundra 65 Cooler! Tickets are \$10 each. You may call the school at 419-622-5171 and ask for extension 271 for more info or tickets!

Performing Arts News

If you use/give gift cards during the Christmas season, you can get them from us! We offer gift cards to hundreds of retailers in various denominations. You purchase the gift card like you would in a store and we get a percent of it back for ordering in bulk. Go to www.waynetrace.org and go to the High School page, then click on the gift card link. You can print out a listing and send your order and check into the school. Just mark it for the music department and we will get it ordered! There are 2 order dates in December - the 3rd & 10th. Orders must be received by noon that day to get it processed. Thank you for supporting us which allows us to support our music students!

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 7 JH Band/Choir Concert - 7 pm
Dec. 11 **2 Hr Delay-Staff In-Service**
Dec. 14 HS Band/Choir Concert - 7 pm
Dec. 21 - Jan. 1 - NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK

ATHLETIC EVENTS

HS Girls Basketball

Dec. 1	Bryan - H	6:00
Dec. 5	Ft. Jennings - T	12:00
Dec. 8	Paulding - H	6:00
Dec. 15	Van Wert - H	6:00
Dec. 17	Hicksville - H	6:00
Dec. 19	Ottoville - H	12:00
Dec. 28	Woodlan - T	6:00
Dec. 30	Lincolnview - T	6:00

HS Boys Basketball

Dec. 4	Bryan - T	6:00
Dec. 11	Ft. Jennings Center - T	6:00
Dec. 12	Lincolnview - H	6:00
Dec. 18	Hicksville - T	6:00
Dec. 19	Van Wert - H	6:00
Dec. 22	Paulding - H	6:00
Dec. 30	Woodlan - H	6:00

Freshman Boys Basketball

Dec. 1	Van Wert - H	4:30
Dec. 3	LCC - T	5:00
Dec. 10	Lima Perry - Payne	5:00
Dec. 12	Columbus Grove - H	10:00
Dec. 17	Hicksville - A	4:30
Dec. 22	Paulding - H	4:30
Dec. 30	Woodlan - H	4:30

JH Girls Basketball

Dec. 1	Continental - H	5:00
Dec. 3	Antwerp - T	5:00
Dec. 5	Crestview - H	10:00
Dec. 8	Hicksville - H	5:00
Dec. 10	Kalida - H	5:00
Dec. 17	Delphos Jefferson - H	5:00
Dec. 21	Ottoville - H	5:00

JH Boys Basketball

Dec. 1	Ft. Jennings - T	5:00
Dec. 3	Crestview - H	5:00
Dec. 8	Hicksville - T	5:00
Dec. 10	Ayersville - T	5:00
Dec. 17	Fairview - T	4:30
Dec. 29	Paulding - T	4:30

HS Wrestling

Dec. 10	Edg/Ayer/Tin @ WT	6:00
Dec. 12	Arcadia Invite	8:00
Dec. 15	FV/WT/Tin @ Tin	6:00
Dec. 29/30	Defiance Inv.	TBA

JH Wrestling

Dec. 5	WT Invite	9:00
Dec. 10	Edg/Ayer/Tin @ WT	6:00
Dec. 12	Allen East - T	10:00
Dec. 15	FV/WT/Tin @ Tin - T	6:00

GO RAIDERS!