



WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOLS - JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE Mr. Benjamin A. Winans

As we get ready to welcome in the New Year, I want to open this month's newsletter by taking a moment to wish you a very happy holiday season from all of us here at the Wayne Trace Local Schools. It is our hope that you are all able to take a break from school and work which allows you time to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends. We cannot predict what 2021 will bring for us here at Wayne Trace, but we are looking forward to the opportunity to continue to serve our community by providing a quality education to our students.

Speaking of the holiday season, I want to recognize our students and staff members who worked to continue our traditional holiday programs under the current regulations. While we know not everyone was able to come and enjoy the various programs on our campuses, it was great to see our students and staff come together and find a way to showcase their talents while spreading some holiday cheer to all. A special thank you to Ms. Sharon Spinner, Mrs. Joni Wenninger, Mr. Kaleb O'Donnell, and Mrs. Caitlyn Schmidt. These staff members put in many extra hours to assist our students in preparing for these programs. I would also like to thank all students and staff district wide who donated their time and money to make certain we can provide those in our community who are in need with a nice holiday as well. The education of our students goes beyond what we do each day in our buildings and it was great to see so many students and staff willingly give of themselves so others could enjoy the season.

It is certainly hard to believe we are entering a New Year as it seems as though it was just yesterday that it was August and we were starting our school year. As we approach the New Year we will again be actively seeking applicants for the Wayne Trace Staff Hall of Fame. Typically, we have selected these Hall of Fame members in the fall of the year, but due to the various uncertainties this past fall we are pushing this ceremony off to a later date. However, we are still asking our community members to nominate past staff who they believe meet the criteria to be inducted into our Staff Hall of Fame. The nomination form can be found on our district website (waynetrace.org) under the district link.

As we look forward to students returning from the holiday break, academically we will continue to challenge our students to meet high expectations. The Ohio Department of Education sets the academic standards which our staff are following to provide the necessary content to each student. I want to remind all parents and guardians if you have any questions about the educational process of your child do not hesitate to contact us. Continued collaboration between school and home will only assist in making the educational process a successful one for your children. We welcome your input and look forward to your continued support of this great district.

Speaking of returning to school, we will resume school on January 4. Our first semester will come to a close on January 15. Please note that we do not have school on January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

As I close this edition of my newsletter to you, I want to thank the great staff members that I have the joy of working with each day here at Wayne Trace Local Schools. As a district we are truly blessed to have a staff of quality and caring individuals to meet the educational needs of our students. When you see a Wayne Trace staff member be sure to thank them for the great job they do 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

Congratulations to our Grover Hill and Payne preschool staffs for a successful preschool licensing visit! Sara Linder, Alaina Backus, Stacy Thomas, and Sherry Eickholt did a great job in preparing for the visit.

In other preschool news, it's hard to believe that we will soon start planning for the 2021-2022 school year! Our Little Raiders spring early childhood screening will occur Wednesday, March 24, 2021 and Thursday, March 25, 2021. The screening is for children who are age 3 to 5, and covers developmental areas, hearing, speech, and vision. Starting in January 2021, parents may call Amy to schedule an appointment at 419-587-3414 extension 309. If you have any questions about special education or early learning matters, you may contact our office at 419-587-3414.

PAYNE ELEMENTARY Mr. Paul Jones, Principal

2020 has finally come to a close!! So far, Wayne Trace Local Schools has been able to remain open, and insure our students are getting the best education possible. Our staff at Payne Elementary has remained healthy for the most part, and our students have continued to wear masks without complaining, stay socially distant when appropriate, and wash their hands. The entire community of Payne should be proud of the students and staff at Payne Elementary! They have adapted and overcome all the obstacles due to the pandemic. The future looks bright and we look forward to a better 2021!!

Christmas Program

Even though we could not perform our Christmas program in front of the community, Mr. O'Donnell still managed to put on a show, and make it available to the public. To view the 2020 Christmas Program, go to the Payne Elementary web site. You can view the program in 2 parts.

Instant Alert

On January 1st, 2021, Wayne Trace Local Schools will be implementing a new "Instant Alert" system to communicate information to students and parents. **If you want to receive communication, you must register for the alerts.** Follow the steps below to register for Instant Alerts:

www.waynetrace.org

- Under the picture - click on "Parent Resources"
- Under "Links" - click on "Instant Alert"
- Click on "Register New User"
- Your email address MUST match the email you used to register for **Oneview** (if you have not completed your registration in **Oneview**, please do so first and then register for Instant Alert.)

Free Breakfast and Lunch

The Ohio Department of Education received approval to expand free breakfast and lunch to **all students** attending schools on the National School Lunch Program through the entire 2020-2021 school year. This opportunity continues the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Education's dedication to meeting the needs of the whole child during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upcoming Events for January 2021

- Jan. 15 - End of the 2nd Quarter
- Jan. 18 - No School

GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY Mr. Mark Lange, Principal

Thanksgiving is the opportunity we have to reflect upon our many blessings that we have received, and Christmas if our opportunity to remember how much we have been blessed as we reach out to those in our community in need and pass our blessings onto them.

Here at Grover Hill, our staff members got to wear jeans the week of November 16th in return for a donation to our Thanksgiving meal baskets. On the evening of Monday, November 23rd, Mrs. Farley, elementary guidance counselor and I drove around to deliver 12 laundry baskets full of food - enough to prepare a full thanksgiving meal - to various households in the area served by Grover Hill school. Mrs. Farley and I both were so excited to see the smiles on the faces of those blessed by the generosity of the teachers with assistance from our students.

As the holidays approached, we started to plan our annual canned food drive, but after reaching out to local food banks, we learned that they are pretty well stocked to get them through the holiday season. In searching for other opportunities to demonstrate our generosity, we decided on helping sponsor the Christmas meal that Paulding County's Meals on Wheels program provides to local shut-ins. Many of the area's aging are not able to venture out of their homes as easily and Covid restrictions have further reduced their ability to socialize. We decided that

we wanted to help raise money for the Christmas meal. On the day of delivery, the Meals on Wheels staff will also be handing out Christmas cards and letters from our students to those receiving one of the special dinners.

Here at WTGHE, we also like to have some fun! Rather than just asking students to bring in their loose change to support our Meals on Wheels Cheer project, five staff members were nominated to take a pie to the face. Students use their donations to "vote" for the person who they want to see creamed with a pie. So far, yours truly is leading the pack in a run-away race. For the record, I do love a great chocolate cream pie in case anyone wants to sweet the experience for me.

We have so much to be thankful for here at Grover Hill, and we want to make sure that our students understand the idea of generosity and being thankful for what they have and how they can make a positive impact upon their community. These are but just two ways that our students and staff have tried to lead by example and to help foster a sense of community pride and demonstrate the importance of helping those among us.

Until next month, stay safe, enjoy the coming holiday, and remember that Christmas is a season of generosity, and we can best demonstrate that by passing on the blessings we have.

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

JR/SR Guidance News

Parents of students interested in taking a class for College Credit during the 21-22 school year, we will be having our annual College Credit Plus information meeting on Monday, January 25th at 6pm. It is still being determined if this will be in person or virtual. This meeting is required for parents of any student who wants to take CCP classes during the 21-22 school year even if they have already taken a class. At this meeting, all required paperwork will be distributed. They will discuss the new requirements for qualifications (due to COVID), deadlines, and how CCP classes affect college and high school gpa. It is encouraged that students attend as well. If you are unable to attend, you will need to contact Mrs. Franz for the link to watch the meeting and for the paperwork. Information will be updated on our

website, the Wayne Trace JH/HS Guidance Facebook page, our daily announcements (available on the webpage), and will be distributed to the students via email.

Our Juniors will have an opportunity to take the ACT on the morning of February 23rd. This is a great opportunity for our students.

Senior information: There are several scholarships on our website. More local scholarships will be added through January and February. You can find this on the Guidance page on the high school site.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Wayne Trace Jr./Sr. High School teachers recently voted on the following Students of the Month for November: 7th Grade: Riley Manz, 8th Grade: Tyler Sanderson, 9th Grade: Emily Thrasher, 10th Grade: Sydnee Sinn, 11th Grade: Keegan Short, 12th Grade: Alizae Alejo. As part of their award each student received a "Raider Pride - Pay Forward" t-shirt. Congratulations Raiders!

Music Department News

BEEF RAFFLE - Thanks to everyone who purchased beef raffle tickets! Winners will be drawn and contacted on January 11th.

We are excited to start preparing for the spring musical, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory! We are hoping to be able to be at full audience capacity by March so everyone can enjoy this show!

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 15 End of the 2nd Quarter
- Jan. 18 **NO SCHOOL—MLK DAY**

ATHLETIC EVENTS

HS Girls Basketball

Jan. 7	Tinora - T	6:00
Jan. 11	LCC - T	6:00
Jan. 14	Antwerp - H	6:00
Jan. 19	Jefferson - H	6:00
Jan. 21	Edgerton - T	6:00
Jan. 28	Fairview - H	6:00
Jan. 30	Miller City - H	12:00

HS Boys Basketball

Jan. 2	Arlington - T	6:00
Jan. 8	Tinora - H	6:00
Jan. 9	Del. Jefferson - T	6:00
Jan. 15	Antwerp - T	6:00
Jan. 16	Ft. Jennings - H	6:00
Jan. 22	Edgerton - H	6:00
Jan. 23	Miller City - T	6:00
Jan. 26	Continental - T	6:00
Jan. 29	Fairview - T	6:00
Jan. 30	Kalida - T	6:00

Freshman Boys Basketball

Jan. 7	Tinora - H	4:30
Jan. 12	Miller City - T	5:00
Jan. 14	Antwerp - T	4:45
Jan. 21	Edgerton - H	4:30
Jan. 28	Fairview - A	5:00

JH Girls Basketball

Jan. 4	Tinora - T	5:00
Jan. 5	Woodlan - T	5:00
Jan. 7	Antwerp - H	5:00
Jan. 12	Ayersville - H	5:00
Jan. 14	Paulding - T	5:00
Jan. 16	GMC - H	10:00
Jan. 18	GMC - H	5:45
Jan. 19	7th Grade @EDG	TBA
Jan. 21	7th Grade @EDG	TBA
Jan. 23	GMC - H	10:00

JH Boys Basketball

Jan. 4	Del. Jefferson - T	5:00
Jan. 5	Woodlan - H	5:00
Jan. 7	Edgerton - T	5:00
Jan. 12	Van Wert - T	5:00
Jan. 14	Tinora - T	4:30
Jan. 19	Antwerp - T	4:30
Jan. 21	Ottoville - H	5:00
Jan. 26	Holgate - H	5:00
Jan. 28	Kalida - H	5:00

HS Wrestling

Jan. 5	Tinora/Hicks @Hicks	6:00
Jan. 9	Troy Invite	9:30
Jan. 12	Celina - H	6:00
Jan. 15	Van Buren Invite	5:00
Jan. 16	Van Buren Invite	9:30
Jan. 22	LCC-A	5:30
Jan. 13	LCC-A	9:30

JH Wrestling

Jan. 5	Tinora/Hicks @Hicks	6:00
Jan. 2	Antwerp Inv - T	9:30
Jan. 12	Celina - H	6:00
Jan. 15	Ayersville Inv - T	9:00
Jan. 15	Wauseon Inv - T	10:00
Jan. 15	PH/Tinora/WT @PH - T	6:00