



WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOLS - MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE Mr. Benjamin A. Winans

We are heading into the third month of 2021 and here at Wayne Trace Local Schools we hope that March will bring warmer temperatures and much more spring like weather. This past month has brought us much winter type weather and created issues that have caused us to delay and cancel school many days. We will be adding two full days to the end of our calendar due to these missed days. Due to this addition of days our school year will now close for students on Friday, May 28. Our hope is that we will be able to get back on a more "normal" school schedule in the month of March.

Staff and students continue to follow the guidelines set by the Governor and our local health department that outline our daily practices to stay keep our education of students in person. We have seen attendance numbers remain at a good level during the pandemic. We attribute the success of our plan to all the students, staff and community members buying into the plan and wanting our students to be educated on campus. Many thanks to all involved for keeping our schools open as we know that in person learning is the best setting for our students.

Regardless of the weather and health factors in our district, our number one priority each day is to make certain our facilities are safe and secure. We are very thankful to be able to have Deputy Lyons and our K9 Duke in our district each day to assist our staff and students and continue to examine the district to make certain we are providing the safest environment possible each day. Our principals are again working with their staff members to make certain we conduct the necessary training and drills to prepare us for any circumstance that might arise. When we conduct these drills we work closely with our first responders to engage them in the process as well. While we do not ever want to insight panic with these drills, we know that the more we can prepare our staff and students through conducting these drills the better off we will be should a situation pop up. As a district we will go above and beyond what is required by the State of Ohio in regard to these trainings and drills to assure our campuses are secure and ready for any situation. Should you have any questions please contact your building principal.

We were pleased to be able to induct our newest member into our Wayne Trace Staff Hall of Fame on February 19 during the boys' basketball game vs Ottoville. Mrs. Leah Smith was in attendance to celebrate her induction into this elite group. As a district we are delighted to be able to bestow this honor on Leah for her many contributions to our district during her tenure here as an educator.

At the January Wayne Trace Board of Education meeting our school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year was adopted. Important dates to note include the first day for students – Wednesday, August 18, Christmas break – December 24 to December 31, and the last day of school – May 24. A complete calendar is available to the public on our school website.

As many of you may be aware the state mandated testing season is moving closer and closer as spring approaches. Our staff members continue to introduce, develop and assess students on academic content standards as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education to ensure the success of all our students. Parents can continue to assist in this process by encouraging students to continue to work hard and put forth their best effort through the end of the school year. While we know that no one is overly excited to take the state assessments, the results that come from them will allow us to determine student growth in the core academic subjects. A continued effort being put forth by all students will provide us with accurate data, so we can know in what areas improvement is necessary. As I have stated before success in school is a team effort between home and school. We all play a vital role in the education of our students.

Congratulations go out to our varsity athletic squads who are wrapping up their winter seasons. For just the second time in school history the varsity wrestling team has captured the Green Meadows Conference Title. With the OHSAA tournament seasons now under way, we wish our athletes the best of luck as they pursue success

down the tournament trail.

Finally, please be aware of some 2010-2021 school calendar reminders. School will operate on a two-hour delay, district-wide, on Friday, March 12 and Friday April 23 for the purpose of a teacher in-service. Buses will run two hours late that day. Our 3rd Quarter will come to a close on March 26. Also, school will not be in session for students on March 29 to April 2 as we have a week off for spring break. Please note these dates on your calendars.

Should 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

Welcome to March! For interested parents of preschool-age children, remember to sign your child up for Early Childhood Screening. The dates are March 24 for Payne, and March 25 for Grover Hill. To pre-register, call Amy at 419-587-3414 ext. 309. To be screened, children should be 3 years old by April 1, 2021. A child turning 3 after April 1 may come to the fall 2021 screening, or parents may call Help Me Grow at 419-399-4620 (for children birth – 3).

If you have a high school-age child and would like help to plan as they make the transition to adulthood, we will be having a special virtual Coffee & Dessert session toward the end of April. There will be three short sessions: 1- Guardianship, 2- STABLE/ABLE Accounts, 3- Getting services from the Board of DD, OOD, and Social Security. You will be able to sign up for one, two, or all three sessions. Registration information will come out in next month's newsletter.

Finally, I am happy to share that we have been awarded a mini-grant to install hallway sensory paths in both Grover Hill and Payne Elementary Schools. Sensory paths can be used for all students in whole classes, small groups, or individual students, and can help students refocus, burn off energy, and help with attention, behavior, and or sensory issues. The paths will be installed late spring.

PAYNE ELEMENTARY Mr. Paul Jones, Principal

Hopefully March will come in like a lamb! February is now behind us, and hopefully the snow and cold temperatures are as well.

As we approach spring, we are still dealing with the coronavirus. The Governor of Ohio still has a mask mandate in place for schools, as well as social distancing. Field trips and assemblies are still on hold as well. But on the positive side, we are improving and hopefully the end is near and we can get back to normal.

Wayne Trace Local Schools will be having a Spring Break this year. Spring Break will be March 29th through April 2nd. I hope everyone can enjoy time with their families.

Book Exchange

In celebration of Dr. Seuss and Read Across America week, our 6th annual Book Exchange, led by Mrs. Krouse, will take place Friday, March 5. Students are encouraged to bring in up to 2 gently used books that may be exchanged for different books to take home.

Transitional and Traditional Kindergarten Screening

Wayne Trace will have two Kindergarten age programs for the 2021-22 school year. These options include a Transitional Kindergarten depending upon the numbers, and a regular Traditional Kindergarten.

Students enrolled in both Traditional Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten will need to be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2020.

All students interested in enrolling in either program are required to participate in the Kindergarten screening process. Screenings will take place at WTPE on April 5-6. To register your child, please fill out the form that was sent home with students, or call the school at 419-263-2512.

It is important to note that the Transitional Kindergarten classroom will be contingent upon a minimum enrollment as determined by Wayne Trace administration.

It is hard to believe that we are beyond the half-way point in the school year. With all of the challenges that Covid had presented us, it is reassuring to know that we are able to continue to provide our students with high quality, in-person learning and are starting to see many students making gains this year as we try to overcome the loss of the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year. Many thanks go out to our parents, grandparents, and guardians for all that you have done to make this year as successful as it has been.

Upcoming Events:

March 1-5 – Dr. Seuss Week
March 24 – Preschool Screening
March 14 – Daylight Saving Time begins
March 26 - End of the 3rd Quarter (This is a change)
March 29-April 2 – Spring Break

GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY Mr. Mark Lange, Principal

By the time you read this, we will have FINALLY made it to March. The old saying "April showers bring May flowers" is a promise of warmer weather and the return of a greener life outdoors. February has been brutal to us this year with the number of delays and cancellations that we have had. Looking at the ten-day forecast, it seems that this round of bitter cold and snow may be finally over, and I am eagerly looking forward to the return of warmer days, more daylight, and the arrival of the early spring flowers.

March is also an important month of the school year. It is the "final stretch" so to speak in regards to getting our students prepared for the statewide assessments this spring. As teachers work diligently to make sure that our students are as well prepared as possible, please continue to make sure that your students are eating a good breakfast and getting plenty of rest so they are on top of their game each day. The statewide assessments will be starting in mid-April.

We will kick off the first week of the new month with our annual "Right to Read" week. This year's theme is Dr. Seuss and will commemorate his birthday - March 2nd. Mrs. Noffsinger, GH librarian, has been busy planning the week's activities, and she is pleased to announce that each class will be able to visit the new Paulding County Library branch in town. Students will be able to see the library, become familiar with the layout of the facility, learn how to get a library card, and learn more about all of the services the library has to offer. This is a great resource here in the community that is just waiting to be discovered. A big "thank you" goes out to Mrs. Noffsinger and the librarians for partnering to make this a reality.

This is also the time of year when we start preschool and kindergarten screenings. Preschool screenings for Grover Hill will be on Thursday, March 25th from 1-5pm. To schedule an appointment, please call Laurie DeLong, Special Education and Preschool Director, for an appointment. If your child will be ready for kindergarten or transitional kindergarten, kindergarten screenings will be conducted on Thursday March 25th and Friday, March 26th. Please call 419-399-4100, option #3 to register for either of the screenings. As a side note, current GH kindergarten and transitional kindergarten students will not have school on March 25th and 26th as the teachers test next year's students.

The Paulding County Libraries are once again sponsoring the "Battle of the Books" competition for county 5th and 6th grade students. Grover Hill has two teams this year. The "Radiant Reading Raiders" team consists of S. Lopez-Castillo, C. Manz, N. Schlatter, A. Stoller, Z. Stoller, and C. Volk while the "JAC" team is comprised of J. Beining, C. Brimmer, A. LaBounty, A. Manz, A. Noffsinger, and A. Stoller. Both teams read and study selected book in preparation for the competition where they will face tough questions over all of the books that they have read. At this time, the Paulding County Library is still working out the logistics of the competition to make sure it is Covid compliant, and students are excited to have the opportunity to participate this year as the competition was cancelled last spring. Thanks to

all of our hardworking GH students that are busy preparing for this year's battle between the various schools.

Finally, a huge congratulations goes out to N. Schlatter for his outstanding performance at the Paulding County Spelling Bee. I had the privilege of watching all of the county spellers compete, and he had some of the hardest words of any of the contestants. He certainly represented the building and district well as the 3rd place finisher. All of those hours of studying and preparation certainly paid off!

Spring break for all Wayne Trace schools will be March 29th through April 2. We wish everyone a restful and rewarding break. Upon our return, we will continue preparing for the rigors of statewide testing in the weeks that follow.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, never hesitate to call.

Your partner in education,
Mark Lange
WTGHE Principal

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

Academically, during the month of March our focus turns to the upcoming state end-of-course testing. Students in the Class of 2021 and beyond are taking end-of-course exams in six tested areas (Algebra I, Biology, American History, Geometry, English II, and American Government). These exams, along with seventh grade English and Math, and eighth grade English, Math, and Science will be administered in April and possibly May at Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School.

I would encourage parents to go to the Ohio Department of Education website if you have a chance to view example test questions. The ODE tries to answer as many questions or concerns that parents may have in regard to state testing.

We have several special events taking place in March. Our Wayne Trace students are preparing and excited to present the high school musical, **Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory**, March 5-7 and March 12-14. This will be a terrific opportunity for our students to perform. Also, the FFA Pancake and Sausage Breakfast will be March 20 from 7-11am in the HS cafeteria. There will be no school March 29- April 2 due to Spring Break.

As always, if there are questions regarding your son/daughter's education, please contact us at the school. We are committed to provide the best possible education for the all students!

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 January: 7th Grade: Riley Manz, 8th Grade: Ryan Viola, 9th Grade: Emma Laukhuf, 10th Grade: Storm Tracy, 11th Grade: Malia Wittwer, 12th Grade: Treyton Banks. As part of their award each student received a "Raider Pride – Pay Forward" t-shirt. Congratulations Raiders!

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 5-7 Willy Wonka performances
Mar. 12-14 Willy Wonka performances
Mar. 12 2 HR Delay– Staff In-Service
Mar. 14 Daylight Savings Time begins
Mar. 19 End of 3rd Quarter
Mar. 20 FFA Pancake & Sausage Bkfst 7-11a
Mar. 24 Preschool Screening @ WTPE
Mar. 25 Preschool Screening @ WTGHE
Mar. 25-26 Kindergarten Screening @ WTGHE
Mar.29-Apr. 2 NO SCHOOL—SPRING BREAK

ATHLETIC EVENTS

Varsity Baseball
Mar. 29 Continental – A 5:00
Varsity Softball
Mar. 29 Ottoville – A 5:00

GO RAIDERS!