



WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOLS - NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE Mr. Benjamin A. Winans

As we jump into another month, we are pleased to see our school year moving along as we continue to make adjustments to meet the protocols in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been successful as we have navigated through the first nine week of the school year in large part due to the support from our parents and compliance from our student population. We know this is not easy on anyone, but certainly applaud the efforts made by all involved to do their part to keep our students safe and healthy. As a district, we want to see our students reporting to school each day as we believe this is the best environment for them to learn in. Thank you all for working with us to continue to make this happen.

We are attempting to keep the school year as "normal" as possible with the current situation. One way we are looking to do this is through providing our parents the opportunity to participate in our annual parent-teacher conferences on November 4 and 5. These conferences allow parents to have a conversation with those who work to educate their children each day. This is a very positive way for teachers and parents to work together toward the success of each child. This year we are working with parents to have in-person conferences or virtual conferences if that is your choice. If you have not yet scheduled a conference with your child's teacher, I encourage you to contact the school to schedule a time to do so.

We also work to keep our stakeholders updated each day as information is added to our district website (www.waynetrace.org). Here you will find general information in regard to the whole district, as well as links to each of our individual buildings. Please take some time to visit the website as our staff works very hard to keep these pages updated to allow our stakeholders to have access to the most up to date information in regard to our district.

One specific update we want to make all parents and students aware of is that our district has received U.S. Department of Agriculture that we are eligible to continue to offer both free breakfast and lunch to all students through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. This extension will allow all students to receive both breakfast and lunch at no cost throughout the year. Any funds on accounts will automatically roll over for next school year. We encourage all students to participate as our cafeteria's provide very balanced and nutritious meals for our district.

November also brings with it the end to our fall extra-curricular seasons. We want to congratulate and thank all those who participated in our fall extra-curricular activities. We would also like to thank all those who supported our events throughout the fall. As we turn to the winter seasons we are pleased to announce that we will be able to provide a live stream of our varsity and junior varsity events for the winter in much the same manner we did for our fall events. We are currently finalizing plans and getting equipment in place to allow for this to happen. Keep an eye on our website and social media as links will be posted for the upcoming events soon.

In a previous update I mentioned that our report card from the Ohio Department of Education did not contain the normal data we see each year due to lack of testing taking place last spring. However, we are working as a district to utilize our own local data to provide feedback on areas that we will look to improve in. The breaking down of this data and really digging into it allows our staff to better be able to service the needs of each student. We appreciate the cooperation of the community as you allow us the time to do this during our scheduled professional development days throughout the school year. As a reminder, we have scheduled two hour delays for in service on December 11, February 12, March 12, and April 23. These scheduled days allow our staff to collaborate and develop plans to increase the achievement across the district.

As you may already be aware we are again running our 21st Century Program for each of our elementary schools to provide an after-school tutoring and mentoring program. This program allows students to have contact with our classroom teachers for additional assistance outside of the school day. The program is off and running, but will continue to

enroll new members. Should you have questions in regard to this program feel free to contact Jessica Davis, Program Coordinator at Wayne Trace Grover Hill Elementary at (419) 587-3414 or Rachel Dettrow/Kristen Schlatter, Program Coordinator at Wayne Trace Payne Elementary at (419) 263-2512.

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

Welcome to October!

PAYNE ELEMENTARY Mr. Paul Jones, Principal

The end of the first nine weeks has come and gone! Friday, October 23, was the end of our first quarter and we have moved into November. The weather has changed, and hopefully this will take care of our bee problem on the playground. Payne Elementary ended the month of October with the annual Halloween Parade, which was renamed the "Costume Extravaganza" for the year 2020.

Our students and Teachers have worked very hard so far this year. Our 3rd graders completed the Fall State Tests on the 27th and 28th, and have crossed that off their list! We will continue to move forward through the Holiday season, and hopefully when spring gets here, we can begin to get back to normal.

Coats

The temperature is dropping, and as we get closer to winter, please insure your child dresses properly and has a coat or jacket. Our minimum temperature for recess is 25 degrees F (real feel). If a student is not dressed properly, they may not be able to participate in recess.

Breakfast/Lunch

A reminder to all parents that school breakfast and lunch is 100% free. Our district does benefit from increased student participation in breakfast and lunch, so we are asking all students to please take part in this waiver.

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.terrilynn.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

Payne Elementary will have Parent/Teacher conferences beginning November 4th from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. There will be NO SCHOOL on November 5th so that we can have a full day of Parent/Teacher Conferences from 1:00PM through 8:00PM. The option of doing them virtually this year is available. If you would like to do your conference virtually this year, please contact your child's teacher.

Mask Reminder

A reminder to all parents and students; it is important to wear a mask to school every day. Our state guidelines still require us to wear a mask at school. Students will not be permitted to get on the bus in the mornings if they are not wearing a mask. Please insure you student has a mask each and every day, and a spare if possible in their book bag.

Veteran's Day

We will have NOT have our annual Veteran's Day Assembly this year due to Covid-19 and state mandates. We at Payne Elementary would like to say "Thank You!" to all the Veteran's out there. We plan to resume our Veteran's Day assembly next school year, and every year after that.

**Follow Payne Elementary on Twitter:
@trace_wayne**

GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY Mr. Mark Lange, Principal

The crisp autumn air and beautiful fall colors are finally here! Friday, October 23rd marked the end of the first grading period! It is hard to believe that we are 25% of the way through the school year already. Grade cards were sent home

already, and we held our first quarter rewards party on Monday. Students enjoyed fresh cake donuts, cider, milk, and juice thanks to the generosity of our outstanding Grover Hill Elementary PTO. We have a fantastic PTO here at WTGHE! They just wrapped up their annual fund-raiser, and they ended the event having made nearly \$7,000 that they will re-invest in the students and staff here at Grover Hill. Thanks to all of the parents, grandparents, relatives, and community members who supported their Butter Braid sale.

Our third grade students completed their 3rd grade reading assessments on Tuesday, October 27th and Wednesday, October 28th. This is the assessment that third grade students must pass in order to be promoted to the fourth grade. When you hear of the "Third Grade Reading Guarantee," this is the test they are referring to. Any student not passing the fall test will be provided additional reading interventions and will take the test again in the spring.

The 1st annual Grover Hill Elementary Costume Caravan is also now in the history book. Students dressed up in their favorite Halloween or character costume and classes had the opportunity to walk around town showing off their outfits. Payne Elementary has done something similar for quite a number of years, and COVID forced us to stray away from our normal costume parade. I think it was so well received that this may be a new annual event here in Grover Hill. As the years pass by, I envision our costume caravan around town growing in size and rivaling the event that Payne olds each year.

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th from 5:30 to 8:30 and on Thursday, November 5th from 1:00 to 8:00 pm. Teachers have already sent home conference forms with their students and parents were asked to mark what type of conference they wanted. Options this year included a phone conference at a mutually agreeable time, a virtual conference using Google Meet, or a face-to-face conference at the school. For those wanting virtual or face-to-face, instructions were sent home so parents could log into our online conference scheduler and schedule the time slot that works best for them. If parents have any questions, please call the school office at 419-399-4100, option #3.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school. Be sure to mark November 4th and 5th on your calendar and sign up for your parent-teacher conference. Remember that due to conferences, there will be no school on Friday, November 6th and there will be no school on Monday, November 9th due to staff development. With COVID cancelling many of our school activities this fall, it seems that there is not much to report on, but I am pleased to say that we are busy learning each day and we feel blessed that we are able to still meet five days a week and in-person. As any parent can tell you, there is no at-home learning that can replace what happens here at Grover Hill Elementary every day. Continue to be safe, and we will continue to do our part to make sure our students are safe here at school so in-person learning can continue.

Respectfully,
Mark Lange Principal

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

The first nine weeks concluded on October 23 for the 2020-2021 school year. Overall, the students have worked hard to keep up with the expectations of our teaching staff and following the state guidelines and protocols dealing with the pandemic. Grade reports will be mailed on October 30 to parents/guardians of our students at Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School.

Parent-teacher conferences are set up for Wednesday, November 4th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and Thursday, November 5th from 1:00-4:30 pm and 5:30-8:30 pm. We encourage parents to set up appointments or a virtual meeting with teachers if there are concerns after receiving the grade reports. Contact our office staff and we will try to schedule appointments where teachers may still have openings. Also, parents may call or email teachers directly if questions arise throughout the year. An important factor for student success is having parents who are involved and care about their child's education.

A special program that will take place in November is the National Honor Society induction ceremony on November 24 at 1:55 p.m. Junior and senior students who meet the criteria in scholarship, character, service, and leadership will be honored.

As always, I want to thank the community for its outstanding support of all the activities involving our students at Wayne Trace JR/SR High School. Go Raiders!

Go Raiders!
Mike Myers, Principal

Music Department News

We appreciate all the support our HS band received during marching band season at our home games. A big shout out goes to Mark Holtsberry! He is our halftime announcer and always brings enthusiasm and energy to our performances. We also want to thank all the nursing homes and assisted living facilities that allowed us to come when there was an away game to play for your residents. The band worked very hard to bring you a variety of music this year and they are ready to transition into concert band!

We were able to have a modified Fine Arts Festival this year. A wonderful evening of music and art displays were enjoyed by everyone!

Let us help you with your Christmas shopping! The Performing Arts will again be offering gift cards for your convenience. It's simple – you purchase the gift cards at face value and we receive a percentage back for ordering in bulk. There are hundreds of retailers to choose from and three dates to place orders. Go to the school website, waynetrace.org, where you will find a link to get the information! The first order date is November 19th!

WHERE'S THE BEEF

We have it! An entire steer is being raffled to help our HS Choir and Band students with performance trips. Tickets are \$10 each and there are 10 chances to win! Grand prize is a Yeti Tundra 65 cooler filled with approx. 60# beef. Nine more chances to win approx. 60# beef.

Find a student to get your tickets or contact the music department office! They will be sold through December 18 with the winners contacted January 11. Beef will be processed in March 2021.

Looking ahead:

December 7th – JH Band and Choir Christmas Concert 7:00pm HS Gym

December 14th – HS Band and Choir Christmas Concert 7:00pm HS Gym

JR/SR HIGH Students of the Month

Wayne Trace Jr./Sr. High School teachers recently voted on the following Students of the Month for September: 7th Grade: Lance Maenle, 8th Grade: Braden Miller, 9th Grade: Brenna Thomas, 10th Grade: Anna Wells, 11th Grade: Eli Spinner, 12th Grade: Isaiah Rittenhouse. As part of their award each student received a "Raider Pride-Pay Forward" t-shirt. Congratulations Raiders!

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 4 P/T Conferences 5:30-8:30PM

Nov. 5 **No School** (P/T Conferences 1-8)

Nov. 6 **No School**

Nov. 9 **No School Staff In-service**

Nov. 25 No School (Thanksgiving Break)

Nov. 26 No School (Thanksgiving Break)

Nov. 27 No School (Thanksgiving Break)

ATHLETIC EVENTS

HS Girls Basketball

Nov. 23 N. Central –T 6:00
Nov. 24 Defiance –H 6:00

Nov. 28 St. Johns —T 1:00

HS Boys Basketball

Nov. 27 Columbus Grove–H 6:00

Freshman Boys Basketball

Nov. 30 Kalida –H 5:00

JH Girls Basketball

Nov. 19 Fairview –T 5:00

Nov. 23 Lincolnview –T 5:30

Nov. 24 Edgerton –T 4:30

Nov. 28 Holgate –H 9:30

GO RAIDERS!