



# WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOLS - SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE Mr. Benjamin A. Winans

Both staff and students at Wayne Trace Local Schools are pleased to have the 2020-2021 school year underway. Staff returned to the building on August 17 and began to prepare for students. On August 19 we welcomed our students back into the buildings. Having visited each of our three campuses I can confidently tell you that things are running very well. It was great to see our students return to the buildings, interact with one another and enjoy the start to what we believe will be another great school year.

Our staff continue to have high expectations for the students in regard to their academic achievement. Those same staff members will work to implement various techniques to assist students in meeting these high standards. As a district we are working to provide more engagement through our various technology. Specifically, our staff are working to further train our students on the Google platform which will allow them to be able to access assignments, visit the Google classroom, email, and at times meet with teachers virtually. We are confident that providing one platform to our students will make the learning processes easier for all involved.

Each year our staff set these high expectations for our students in order to prepare them for the next level in their education. We also know that we must also prepare for the State mandated testing that is a part of our educational process. While this continues to be a very hot topic, our staff will continue to push our students to achieve the standards the State has set. We are confident the Ohio Department of Education will use these standards to measure the growth of our district and look to make certain our students are prepared when these tests do come. Our staff is constantly adjusting their practices to deal with the changes coming from all levels to make certain we meet the academic expectations of the Wayne Trace Community.

Another obvious concern as we begin this school year is the safety of both students and staff which they are in our buildings and on our busses. This year as much as any were are working very closely with our local health department to make certain we are following the most up to date guidelines in regard to the current pandemic. Specifics for each buildings reopening can be found on our district website along with a frequently asked questions link. We have also posted the most up to date information in regard to how our conference is handling the reopening of athletics. If you cannot find answers to questions you have in regard to our planning in response to the pandemic, please contact the principal of the building your child attends.

As we start the new school year another area that we examine in regard to student's safety is potential weather hazards that may force us to adjust school schedules. Weather forces us to make decisions concerning if it is safe enough to get students to school. We ask that you remember that weather patterns can change quickly, which may lead to our staff needing to make decisions based upon these weather changes. Just as weather patterns can change, so to can conditions in our very large district. While it may be clear in some areas of the district, other areas may be experiencing totally different weather patterns. Please know that our bus driver's first concern is the safety of each student on the bus and they will take the necessary precautions to make sure travel conditions are safe before they proceed. If your student drives to school, ultimately you as the parent have the control. In extenuating circumstances if you believe conditions are not safe for your child to drive please contact the school. The safety of each student in traveling to and from school is a top priority of the district.

As I mentioned in my opening address to our staff, schools that operate with high levels of collaboration and communication can reach high levels of performance. One of our goals as a district is to communicate with our stakeholders and provide collaboration to meet your needs. This communication and collaboration needs to follow the correct process. Should you have concerns about something that is taking place in the classroom, we ask that you first contact the classroom teacher to assist you. If there are concerns on the athletic field, please reach out the coach of the sport in question. In each of these cases if you are not satisfied with the response you receive you may contact the next person in the chain of command. Our building principals and athletic director are in their positions to assist you if your concerns are not met. If you are still not satisfied with their response, I will also listen to your concerns. However, I will seek out those district representatives whom you have worked with to attempt to resolve any issues and be certain that they are involved in our conversations as well. Contacting the proper person will result in communication that will allow you as a parent or community member to see timely results to issues.

As I close the first edition of the newsletter for the 2020-2021 school year, I just want to share with each of you how great it was to see our students return to the buildings this school year. While we certainly do not know what lies ahead we are doing our best to prepare the students for whatever may come. We appreciate your continued support and patience as we embark on the school year.

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

## Laurie DeLong, Student Services/Early Learning

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are happy to welcome two new intervention specialists to the district this year. Alaina Backus is serving at the Grover Hill preschool, and Brittany Kahle is the new Grover Hill grades 2-3 intervention specialist.

There are a couple of new items for our special education department this fall. Due to the circumstances, this year, we will hold ETR and IEP meetings virtually. These meetings will be held via Google Meet. Google Meet allows parents to join the meeting via video conference or by phone—whichever is most convenient.

Prior to the scheduled meeting, parents will receive an email with the Google Meet information. If a parent would like to join the meeting via video conference, just need to click the link provided. If a parent would like to join via phone, just call the number and enter the pin provided in the email.

If you have any questions, we can help parents walk through the steps of this process.

We have made adjustments for the Fall Early Childhood Screening. For interested parents, it is by individual private appointment only. Children should be ages 3-5.

Questions and comments for the Student Services department, which includes special needs programs, psychologists, therapists (speech, occupational, physical, vision), nursing, parent mentor, and preschool, can be directed to the Special Education Office at the Grover Hill Elementary building (419-587-3414).

## PAYNE ELEMENTARY Mr. Paul Jones, Principal

Open House was cancelled this school year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We certainly missed seeing Parents and Students before our first day of school. I can only hope that next school year will kick-off in a more traditional way. Until then, we will continue to educate our students at Payne Elementary. I have to say that regardless of wearing masks and following some strict guidelines beginning this school year, our students and staff have jumped right back into routines and have gotten back to learning and teaching.

We continue to accept student applications for students Preschool through Sixth Grade. Please stop www.waynetrace.org and click on the Register link to enroll your child.

Beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Wayne Trace Local Schools will introduce the **Free Breakfast Program**. All students at Payne Elementary can receive a **free grab-and-go breakfast** that will be taken to their classroom and eaten before school begins. This is a new program to Wayne Trace Local Schools, but other schools have adopted this program as well through a grant.

### Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

We will be using the same arrival and dismissal procedures as last year. Please visit www.waynetrace.org and select Payne Elementary to view these procedures. As a reminder, The carline is a NO CELL PHONE zone. For the safety of our students, safety patrol, teachers, administrators, and other drivers, please do not be talking or texting on your cell phone while you are moving in the carline.

### Title 1 Reading Program

The Title 1 Reading program is a school-wide, federally funded program to provide additional assistance in reaching reading proficiency. The following criteria is used to select students to participate in the Title 1 program:

1. Reading Diagnostic score of "not on track" for grade level
2. Standardized reading score of limited or basic in any given reading area
3. DIBELS reading assessment indicating "at risk" in any given reading area
4. Star Reading test indicating below grade level reading placement
5. Teacher criteria checklist indicating classroom performance below expected level
6. Kindergarten fall testing indicating "at risk" students

Students must qualify in at least two criteria areas to receive additional reading instruction by the Title 1 teacher. Students receive an additional 20-30 minutes of reading instruction three or five days a week from highly-qualified teachers. Please check out our School-Parent Compact and Parent Involvement Policy in the Title 1 folder under Quick Links on our school's website. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. April Krouse or Mr. Jones.

## GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY Mr. Mark Lange, Principal

Cool nights and morning fog indicate that fall is just around the corner and that the school year is officially underway. We have had a fantastic start to the 2020/2021 school year here at Grover Hill Elementary. Before August 19<sup>th</sup> even got here, the teachers were putting their finishing touches on their classrooms in preparation for the return of our students. I would like to thank all of the teachers for the many hours that they invested in getting their rooms in top shape. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we were not able to have our annual open house, so parents and guardians never got the chance to see just how inviting the teachers have made their classrooms.

As I listen to the talk amongst students, it is obvious that they are excited about being back in school. With all of the uncertainties caused by Covid, I must say that our students have once again demonstrated their resiliency. If it were not for students wearing masks, one would never know that this year was different from all other years. They are taking the face mask mandate in stride, and they are clearly committed to helping us keep the school doors open! Handwashing has certainly become more thorough, the use of hand sanitizer more frequent, and

our lines have gotten longer. Everyone is doing his or her part to make sure that we remain healthy and that we can continue to learn face-to-face and for that I am grateful.

Our new breakfast program will kick-off on Tuesday, September 8. Every child in the building will have the opportunity to get a free breakfast from the cafeteria each morning. We applied for and received a grant that will cover the cost of breakfasts for our students for the rest of the year. We all know how important it is for students to start their day off right with a good meal, and this will give each child a solid start to their day.

Picture day is also right around the corner! Picture forms will be sent home in the coming days. Gibby's will once again be taking student photos here at WTGHE, and they are scheduled to be here Tuesday, September 15 for students in PreK-6 and back again Wednesday, September 16 to photo anyone who was absent the day before and to photograph the alternate section of preschool. Normally picture forms are included in your open house information, but we are having to do things a little differently this year.

As mentioned in the August building newsletter that was sent home with your child, we will be changing our after school parent pick-up procedure in the next several weeks. More information will be coming home to those who pick their children up at the end of the day. The tentative plan is to have a car tag that corresponds to tags on the children's bookbags. Parents will remain in their vehicles and cars will form a line that will start just north of the bus parking, weave through the northeast parking lot, down a short section of Monroe St. and turning and extending down Perry Street. As soon as the busses pull out, parents will pull up to the curb in front of the building, and we will start loading cars. This will increase student safety tenfold as we will not have students walking over to the two parking lots and will also allow teachers to match students with the appropriate vehicles. More information will be sent home with students that have been picked up in the past and also posted on the district website.

Lastly, I would like to extend a hearty thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly to Wayne Trace. I already know that I made the right decision to move into the WTGHE principal position, and I am looking forward to an excellent first year as we continue to build a strong future upon our tradition of success.

Sincerely,  
Mark Lange, Principal

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

It has been a terrific start to the 2020-2021 school year. We are pleased to have a few new students and staff, along with another class of seventh graders, added to our returning students and staff at Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School. I look forward to a great year as we develop our young people into life-long learners and responsible citizens.

Mr. Brock Howe is our assistant high school/junior high principal for the third year. He will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day attendance and discipline of the building and oversee the junior high students and staff. I will continue to be the principal of grades 7-12 with primary focus on the high school students and staff. Mr. Howe and I have met with all of the students and staff to explain our roles and vision for success at Wayne Trace.

The seniors in the class of 2021 are required to have taken seven "end of course" exams that the state of Ohio is provided in the following areas: English I and II, Algebra I, Geometry, American History, American Government and Biology. Each of the seven exams are scored on a scale from one to five (five being the highest). A total of 18 points is required to meet the state graduation requirement along with 23 credits set up by the state of Ohio and our local Wayne Trace board of education. Every student graduating after 2021 will be held to the same standards.

I want to thank all parents who have completed the online forms necessary for your sons and daughters to attend Wayne Trace Jr./Sr. High School. As a reminder, we must have emergency medical information on each student. Parents, if you have not filled an emergency medical form out, please do as soon as possible. If it has been misplaced, please contact us and we will make sure you receive one immediately. Also, if you believe that your son or daughter would qualify for a free or reduced lunch, please complete the online form and submit it.

Lastly, we will strive to provide the best possible education that the students and parents of Wayne Trace Local deserve.

Raider Pride!  
Go Raiders!

## Music Department News

The marching band has been practicing since mid-July not knowing what the season would look like. We are disappointed to only be playing at home games, BUT we "won't be muted"!! On Fridays that there are away games, we are looking forward to bringing some music & joy to our surrounding nursing home facilities with our parking lot tour! On September 11 we will be performing at Van Wert Manor and Van Wert Van Crest. On September 18 we will be at the Country Inn and Van Crest Payne.

We encourage all families that attend our home games to stick around at half time and support our kids as they will have you dancing and singing in the stands!

## Athletic Department News

Due to COVID-19 and restrictions of seating/attendance for our school, below is our attendance policy for sports this fall. I realize these are changing and difficult times for many of us so we ask you to please be understanding. Since we are limited to how many we can allow in our facility, we will be live

streaming our **HOME** varsity football games and **eventually** our 9-12 volleyball home games. The first event we will be live streaming is the varsity football Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a work in progress and we hope you will enjoy this feature. Keep in mind that this is new to our district and I am sure we will have to work out some difficulties that we can't predict at this time.

Please visit [www.waynetrace.org](http://www.waynetrace.org) to find the link to watch our varsity football games and 9-12 volleyball games.

## Attendance Policy for Paid sporting events allowed this fall at Wayne Trace:

### Junior High and JV football:

\*Tickets will be sold at the door.

### Varsity Football:

\*Tickets are sold to players, cheerleaders and band member families only. No passes are allowed.

### Volleyball 9-12

\*Tickets are sold to players of family members only.

### Volleyball Junior High

\*Tickets will be sold at the door to family members only. They will be split sessions when we play in our JH gym. On a few occasions, it works out to play in the HS gym, more tickets will be available.

These are the Home policies for those events needing tickets to enter. Keep in mind, when we travel each school has a different amount of seats available and we have to honor their ticket/attendance policy.

Yours in Sports,  
Jim Linder-Athletic Director

## DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 8 Free Breakfast Prog Starts in PS-6thgr.  
Sept. 25 2 HR DELAY-STAFF IN-SERVICE

## ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Varsity Football

Sept. 11 Troy Christian -T	7:00
Sept. 18 Hicksville -T	7:00
Sept. 25 Tinora -H	7:00

### JV Football

Sept. 12 Montpelier -T	10:00
Sept. 21 Hicksville -T	5:00
Sept. 28 Tinora -H	5:00

### Jr. High Football

Sept. 10 Fairview -T (8th gr.)	5:00
Sept. 15 Ayersville -H (8th gr.)	5:00
Sept. 17 Hilltop -T (7th gr.)	5:00
Sept. 22 Tinora -T (8th gr.)	4:30
Sept. 24 Tinora -H (7th gr.)	4:30
Sept. 29 Edgerton -H (8th gr.)	5:00

### Varsity & JV Volleyball

Sept. 10 Crestview -T	5:30
Sept. 15 Tinora -T	5:30
Sept. 17 Ottoville -H	5:30
Sept. 19 MC/Perry @ Perry	10:00
Sept. 21 Van Wert -T	5:30
Sept. 22 Antwerp -T	5:30
Sept. 29 Antwerp -H	5:30

### Freshman Volleyball

Sept. 10 Lincolnview-T	4:30
Sept. 12 Parkway-T	10:00
Sept. 21 Van Wert-T	4:30
Sept. 22 Antwerp-T	4:30
Sept. 28 Liberty Benton-T	4:30

### Jr. High Volleyball

Sept. 10 Van Wert -H	5:00
Sept. 14 Holgate -H	5:00
Sept. 15 Paulding -H	4:30
Sept. 17 Ayersville -T	4:30
Sept. 21 Tinora -H	4:30
Sept. 22 Crestview -T	5:00
Sept. 29 Antwerp -H	4:30

### Cross Country

Sept. 10 Edgerton -T	4:30
Sept. 12 Spencerville Invite @ Spenc	9:00
Sept. 15 Elida Invite (HS) @ Elida	4:30
Sept. 19 OG Inv. @ OG	9:00
Sept. 26 Liberty Center Invite @ LC	9:00
Sept. 29 Ayer/FV/BRY @ WT	5:00