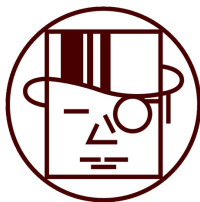


# GO DUKES!



Congrats to Mrs. Kurtz's second-grade class at Westwood for winning the November Duke PRIDE classroom trophy! At Westwood we continue to be Positive-Respectful-show Integrity-Dedicated-give 100% Effort everyday! Thank you members of the Wellington Fire Department for coming to visit and present the award.

# @WELLINGTON SCHOOLS

A digital newsletter from the Wellington Village Schools

DEC. 2021 | VOL 2 ISSUE 3

## In this newsletter:

- H.E.A.R.T program
- Band earns high rating
- Social & Emotional Learning
- Staff Spotlights
- Yearbooks
- Holiday concerts
- A Christmas Story
- Images from our schools
- Contacts

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

by Ed Weber, Superintendent

We have made it to the last month of the year!

There are many exciting things planned in our schools as we countdown to Winter Break. Each building principal will be communicating various activities, be on the look out.

Included in this month's newsletter is contact information for our district wellness staff including our district social worker and counselors. We have several people in place for students and families who may need assistance or someone to talk with. Now more than ever, it is important that we maintain our social and emotional health. If you feel you need assistance, please reach out.

Reminder for all families/students/staff....follow us on Facebook! We have a district Facebook page (@WEVSD), and each school has its own page. It's a great way to stay up-to-date on news/events/happenings from around our schools.

We wish all our Duke families a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.



### Upcoming events:

- Dec. 7: BOE Work Session  
6 p.m. WW
- Dec. 22: BOE Business Meeting  
6 p.m. MMS
- Dec. 22-Jan. 3 Holiday Break
- Jan. 3: Classes resume

A complete list of events is listed on the district's website

# Communicate with H.E.A.R.T. training begins

The Wellington Schools have adopted a new customer experience training program called Communicate with H.E.A.R.T. intended to reach all staff, administrators and Board members. Created by the Cleveland Clinic, the training is in two parts: S.T.A.R.T. (Smile, Tell your name and role, Active listening, Rapport and relationship building, Thank) with H.E.A.R.T. and Respond with H.E.A.R.T. Hear, Empathize, Apologize, Thank.

The goal of the two-hour training conducted by Ron Kisner, previously a trainer in the Cleveland Schools, is to create a welcoming, caring environment where each Wellington parent, guest, student or colleague feels respected and valued.

Kyle Metzger, a first-year Intervention Specialist at Wellington High School completed one of the initial trainings and thought it was valuable in re-enforcing some of the principles she tries always to practice.

“I think the training provides a good guide on how to engage with people and break the ice especially if it seems they are not having a good day,” began Kyle who’s sunny disposition embodies the first principle of S.T.A.R.T. with H.E.A.R.T. “I find that I can even use this training in interacting with my special needs students.”

She also indicated that the training can help resolve apparent conflicts by simply establishing a clear line of communication.

“Once I was having a hard time reaching a parent by telephone only to find out she preferred being contacted by texting—easy fix,” conceded Kyle.

Communicate with H.E.A.R.T. lifted the Cleveland Clinic from the bottom of patient experience measures to a leading ranking among the nation’s hospitals. The hope is that this training will make the Wellington Schools a District that provides an enviable, gold-standard customer experience to anyone walking through its doors.

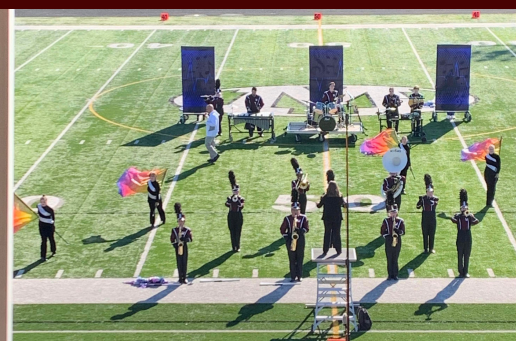
For additional information on the program from the Cleveland Clinic, click [here](#).

*Intervention specialist Kyle Metzger (left) reviews H.E.A.R.T. materials with Karry Trefz, World History, American Government, psychology teacher.*



## WHS band earns Superior rating at State competition

Congratulations to the Wellington High School Marching Dukes Band on receiving a Superior rating at the recent OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) State Finals at Medina High School. Thank you to Hayley Sleggs, band director; Amber DeCaprio, assistant director; and Rick Snodgrass, percussion advisor.



# Meet our Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) Team

*We have many people in place to assist with students/families social and emotional needs*

## **Wellington High School Counselor: Patrick Gallion**

Email: [pgallion@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:pgallion@wellingtonvillageschools.org) Phone: 440-647-7405

## **McCormick Middle School Counselor: Amy Sherman**

Email: [asheraman@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:asheraman@wellingtonvillageschools.org) Phone: 440-647-7918

## **Wellington Schools Comprehensive School Counseling Plan**

District school counselors collaboratively envision a plan for a comprehensive school counseling program that is developmental, preventative and responsive, and in alignment with the school's goals and mission.

## **Westwood Elementary Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health Specialist: Jordan Burns**

Email: [jburns@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:jburns@wellingtonvillageschools.org) Phone: 440-647-7491

The SEL Specialist is committed to encouraging, supporting, and empowering students to become their best selves and provides support to students, families and teachers to ensure student success by promoting positive changes in student behavior, perceptions and learning. The SEL Specialist meets with students individually and in small groups, conducting SEL classroom lessons, and collaborating and working as a team with parents and staff.

## **Wellington Exempted Village Schools District Social Worker: Nicole Poynter**

Email: [npoynter@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:npoynter@wellingtonvillageschools.org) Phone: 440-647-7401

The district social worker can assist families in the following areas:

- Mobilizing family, school, and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible in his or her educational program.
- Assisting children with problems or concerns that arise with their living situation that may affect the child's adjustment in school (home, school, and community).
- Helping the child develop appropriate social interaction skills.
- Assisting the child in understanding and accepting self and others.
- Assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources.
- Assisting families by linking them to resources in the community for food, housing and all other services that may be needed.
- Assisting families to access the cares closet in each building
- Assisting teachers with behavior management.
- Assist with school refusal and truancy

*Continued on page 4*



## SEL Team cont.

**Wellington Exempted Village Schools Student Wellness and Success Coordinator: Liz Wolanski**

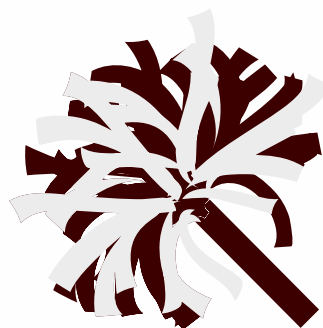
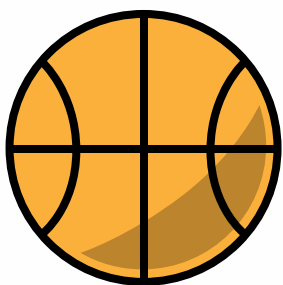
Email: [ewolanski@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:ewolanski@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

The Student Wellness and Success Coordinator's role is to assist the district with identifying and implementing K-12 Social Emotional Learning programming that aligns with the Ohio Department of Education's Social Emotional Learning Standards which provide a continuum of development across five competencies that are as follows: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making. The SEL standards are designed to work alongside ODE's Academic Standards and are part of Ohio's Strategic Plan for Education Each Child, Our Future. The SWSC works alongside the district counselors and social worker in order to research district data and identify and implement SEL programming based on that data across the three tiers of prevention which include Universal for all students in grades K-12, targeted prevention for about 15% of students across the district, and tier three intensive supports for about 5% of students across the our school district.



## Winter Sports season in full swing

Good luck to all our Duke winter sports teams this season. For schedules, click [here](#).



# Staff Spotlights

Get to know our Duke staff members  
Thank you for all you do for kids!

## Dan Gundert

*Westwood Elementary  
Physical education teacher  
Head boys basketball coach  
14 years in the district*



- **What you love most about your job?** The kids, I love trying to impact our students and make meaningful relationships.
- **Family:** Wife Emily (teacher in Strongsville) married 6 years. Kids: Adelyn (4) and Mason (2). Dogs: Bella (Schnoodle) and Jag (Goldendoodle)
- **Bucket list items:** Attend a Duke vs North Carolina game at Cameron Indoor, Concert at Red Rocks, Kentucky Derby, and Super Bowl (with the Browns playing)
- **Favorite food:** Pizza or Cheese Burgers
- **Something nobody knows about you:** I will only listen to Christmas music in my car from the day after Thanksgiving to Christmas Day.
- **A talent or superpower you wish you had:** Flying or Superhuman Strength
- **Favorite place to vacation:** Cabo San Lucas
- **Best piece of advice:** "At the heart of life lie the relationships we have with other people."

## Michael Braddock

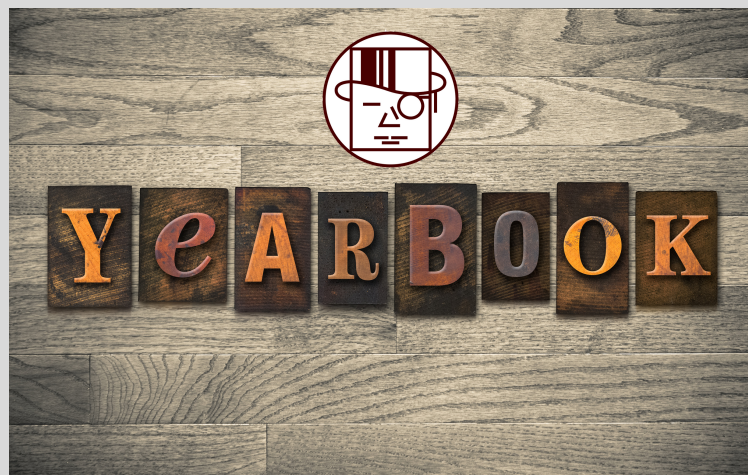
*Math teacher (grades 6-8)  
Assistant golf coach  
12 years in the district*

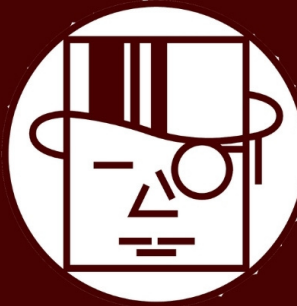


- **What you love most about your job?** The look on a student's face when they have been struggling with a topic for a while and it finally clicks for the first time.
- **Family:** Wife: Amy (married for 10 years). Daughter: Lucy (3). Cats Bumi and Kya.
- **Bucket list items:** San Diego Comic Con
- **Favorite food:** Pepperoni/ Banana Pepper Pizza
- **Something nobody knows about you:** I am terrified of flying and baseballs.
- **A talent or superpower you wish you had:** Healing, I get injured a lot and would like to age slower.
- **Favorite place to vacation:** A cabin with a hot tub in the mountains.
- **Best piece of advice someone gave you?** I had a neighbor who would always help without being asked to help. It is not really advice but it is something I try to do. Helping someone out will often cause them to have a better day, so it is nice to make people's lives a little bit easier in that moment.

## Yearbooks are in!

The 2020-2021 high school yearbook has been shipped. If your book was sent to the school and you are not a student at the high school, email Miss Krajcik ([kkrajcik@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:kkrajcik@wellingtonvillageschools.org)) to arrange a pick up at the front office. High school students can pick up their book in room 119 briefly before or after school.





# HOLIDAY CONCERTS



6th/MMS/WHS Bands  
Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.



MMS & WHS Choirs  
Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

Patricia Lindley Center for the Performing Arts

*Wellington Community Theater and  
Drama Clubs present*



# ***A Christmas Story***

***December 2-4, 2021***

**Doors open at 6:30pm, Curtain at 7:00pm**

**Tickets purchased at the box office before each show,  
cash/check only.**

**\$10 adults, \$5 senior citizens and students**

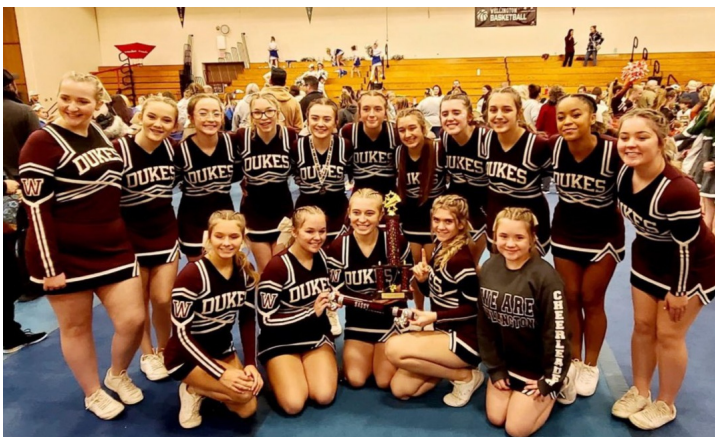
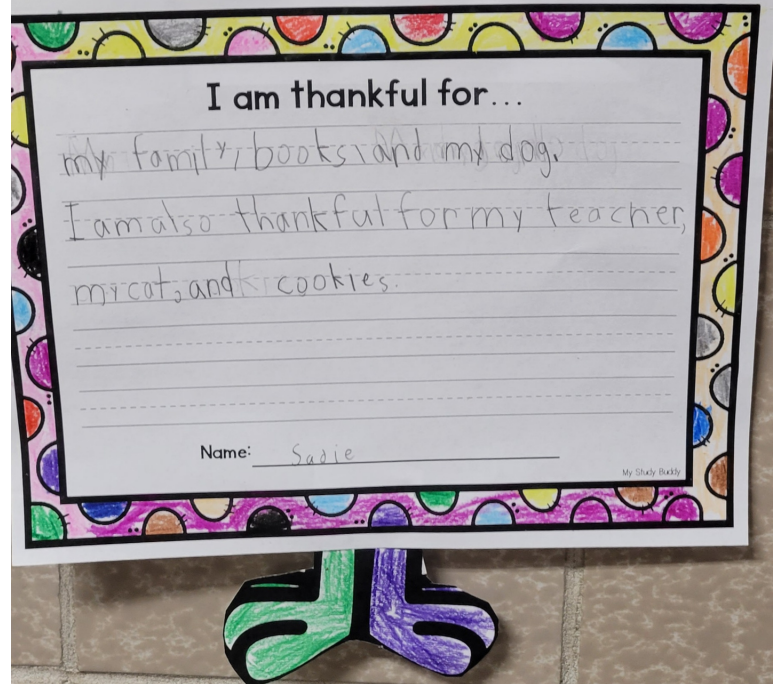
**Patricia Lindley Center for the Performing Arts**

627 North Main Street

Wellington, OH 44090

<https://www.lindleycenter.com/>

# Images from around our schools.....





## Contact us if you have any questions or concerns

Wellington Exempted Village Schools

Phone: (440) 647-4286

Edward Weber, Superintendent

[eweber@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:eweber@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

Westwood Elementary School

Phone: (440) 647-3636

Dr. Janet Kubasak, Principal

[jkubasak@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:jkubasak@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

McCormick Middle School

Phone: (440) 647-2342

John Telloni, Principal

[jtelloni@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:jtelloni@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

Wellington High School

Phone: (440) 647-3734

Donna Keenan, Principal

[dkeen@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:dkeen@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

As one of the district's Strategic Planning initiatives, the Wellington Village Schools would like to improve and increase communication with students, parents, staff and community members. @WellingtonSchools will be a monthly digital newsletter distributed via email to our school families. For more information on our schools, check out our website, [www.wellingtonvillageschools.org](http://www.wellingtonvillageschools.org); or Facebook [@WEVSD](https://www.facebook.com/WEVSD).