



WELLINGTON

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

THIS ISSUE

Treasurer's Office Update

Dr. K's Curriculum Corner

Heathers The Musical

Kindergarten Registration

Johnnie Kinter Baseball

Brooke Lehmkuhl Basketball

National Honor Society Inductees



IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 7: McCormick Movie Night
"Despicable Me 4" 7 p.m. @ Lindley

Feb. 14 - No School (Prof. Development
Day & Valentine's Day)

Feb. 17 - No School (President's Day)

Feb. 18 - BOE Business Meeting (WHS)

Feb. 21 - Kiwanis Pancake Day (Eagles)

Feb. 22 - Lorain County Solo and
Ensemble Choir Performances

Feb. 27 - 9:00 a.m. Spelling Bee grades
3 & 4 (Lindley)

Feb. 27: 10:30 a.m. Spelling Bee grades
5 & 6 (Lindley)

March 3: Mobile Dentist @ Westwood

March 4: Music in our schools month
band concert grades 6 - 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

March 6: Midwinter Choir Concert
grades 6 - 12 @ 7:00 p.m. @ Lindley

March 20 - 22: Heathers the Musical:
High School Edition

OUR DISTRICT VISION

LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Wellington Families,

We all have hopes and dreams for our children. We want them to feel loved, be filled with joy, and find success along the way. By the time they leave childhood, we want them to know that they have strong roots to weather any storm and wings to take them to become the young adults they have envisioned for themselves. Wellington Exempted Village Schools (WEVS) want to partner with our families to make this a reality.

Our staff have come together to reform our district vision statement to reflect this commitment to helping our children reach the futures they want and have the skills they need to face life's challenges.

Schools often write mission or vision statements focusing on measurable outcomes such as test scores and achievement. We decided to reinforce the ideologies of adaptability, positive self-worth, productivity, engagement, resiliency, and being empathetic members of society.

Our new vision centers on helping our students discover their strengths and find pathways to align their interests with their aptitudes.

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LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

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WEVS understands that we must change how we serve our students so that we can help open doors and introduce opportunities to make this a reality.

At our recent sixth through eleventh Grades Curriculum and Vision Night, we shared our new commitment to redesigning teaching and learning to adapt to a changing educational landscape.

Graduation is not our goal; instead, it is to ensure our students leave WEVS prepared to be happy and successful on their chosen path.

Over the next few years, we will continue to partner with the Lorain County JVS and the Lorain County Community College to provide specialized programs and dual credit courses to our students, but we will also work to get more of those classes within our buildings.

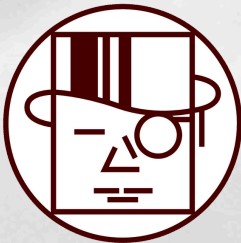
We have aligned our bell schedules between the high school and middle school to accommodate wider flexibility of our course offerings so that we can allow a broader range of students to take classes at their rigor level and provide the support they need.

Instead of focusing on skills that our students struggle with, we will help them identify their strengths and give them chances to build on them. I do not expect all kids to leave WHS knowing precisely what they want to do with their lives, but I do expect that all students will graduate with the skills they need and the confidence to take the next steps. We are our students' teachers, advocates, and life coaches, and the process begins as soon as they enter our buildings and continues after they leave us.

Once a Duke, Always a Duke. Please know that if we all invest in this vision and embrace the process, we will make our vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peltz



DR. KUBASAK'S CURRICULUM CORNER



Fall in Love with Reading: Why do we LOVE our reading curriculum?



K-5 Open Court Reading

1. **Phonics-Based Approach:** It emphasizes phonics, which is one of the most effective methods for teaching reading. This allows children to learn the relationship between letters and sounds, making it easier for them to decode words.
2. **Structured and Sequential:** The program provides a clear, step-by-step structure that builds on previously learned skills. It's designed to ensure that children progress in a way that makes sense and doesn't overwhelm them.
3. **Comprehensive:** Open Court covers all aspects of reading, including phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and spelling. This holistic approach helps students become well-rounded readers.
4. **Engaging Materials:** The program often incorporates fun, age-appropriate stories and visuals to keep children engaged. It mixes both traditional literature and more contemporary texts, keeping things interesting for young learners.
5. **Research-Backed:** Open Court Reading is grounded in research on how children learn to read. Many educators and researchers advocate for its evidence-based methods.



DR. KUBASAK'S CURRICULUM CORNER



Fall in Love with Reading: Why do we LOVE our reading curriculum?



6-12 HMH Into Literature

1. **Rich and Diverse Texts:** The program includes a wide variety of texts—classic literature, modern works, nonfiction, poetry, and more. This diversity helps students explore different perspectives, cultures, and genres, which enhances their critical thinking and cultural awareness.
2. **Skill Development:** It focuses on building essential reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in a scaffolded way. The program aligns with college and career readiness standards, ensuring students are prepared for the next stage in their academic journey.
3. **Engaging Themes:** Each unit is organized around a central theme or essential question (e.g., “What drives people to explore the unknown?”). This encourages deeper connections between texts and gives students meaningful discussion and personal reflection opportunities.
4. **Personalized Learning:** The platform uses adaptive technology and tools that let teachers tailor lessons to meet students' needs, whether they require more support or advanced challenges.
5. **Writing and Grammar Support:** HMH Into Literature includes extensive writing practice, from argumentative essays to creative pieces, with built-in grammar and style lessons to refine students' skills.
6. **Focus on Critical Thinking:** The program emphasizes analyzing text structure, author's purpose, and rhetorical strategies, fostering a deeper understanding of complex materials.
7. **Collaborative Activities:** Students are encouraged to engage in group projects, Socratic seminars, and peer reviews, making the learning experience interactive and social.



TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM MR. BAILEY

It is hard to believe we have already made it halfway through the school year! It is that time of year to begin working on the next 5-year forecast for May as we continue to get a clearer picture of the district expenditures and revenues.

Lorain County went through their reappraisal triennial update along with several other Northeast Ohio counties. The property reappraisals have influenced property values and property taxes in Wellington as well as other communities across northeast Ohio.

The increase in reappraisal values and the 20-mill floor have resulted in the district receiving some increased property tax revenue. The increased revenue will help the district reduce the deficit spending amount that we were projecting for this fiscal year and subsequent years.

The Lorain County Auditor's Office created an excellent presentation explaining the property tax adjustments. The presentation can be found by clicking the link to the right.

You can find additional information regarding your property taxes at the Lorain County Auditor website at <https://loraincountyauditor.gov/>

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me at pbailey@wellingtonvillageschools.org.

-Pete Bailey

Pete Bailey, Treasurer
(440) 647-7979
pbailey@wellingtonvillageschools.org



[Click here to read our monthly Financial Statements!](#)

[Property Tax Adjustment Presentation](#)



NUTRITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Andrea Helton,
MS, RDN LD
Director of Nutrition
Services



Support School Meals and Help Combat Childhood Food Insecurity in Ohio

Did you know that school meals play a vital role in addressing childhood food insecurity and gaps in nutrition across Ohio? By participating in and supporting school meal programs, you are helping to ensure that every student has access to nutritious food, no matter their background or circumstances.

Food insecurity affects one in five children in Ohio, and school meal programs are a lifeline for many families. If you have not yet submitted an application for free and reduced-price meals, but believe that you may qualify, please reach out to any of our three main offices, or the board of education for a paper copy of the application.

You can also apply online by creating an account at www.payschoolscentral.com. If you have any questions please reach out to ahelton@wellingtonvillageschools.org.

Friendly Reminder: Help Us Keep School Meals Going!

To continue offering meals to all students, we kindly ask that any outstanding meal balances be paid as soon as possible.

As a reminder, the funds collected for school meals directly support our program's operation, ensuring we can continue to serve healthy and delicious meals to every student! If you are unsure of your student's meal balance, please reach out to the Nutrition Services team, or follow transactions online at www.payschoolscentral.com



Local Produce Highlight: Fresh, Healthy, & Homegrown!

This school year, the Nutrition Services Department has been proudly emphasizing locally grown produce, with a special focus on hydroponic lettuce! Our side salads and entrée salads feature fresh lettuce sourced from Tyler's Farm in Oberlin, Ohio, ensuring that students enjoy crisp, high-quality greens while supporting local agriculture.

In addition, our Middle School FFA students have been hard at work planting seeds in their Flex Farm Hydroponic Grow Towers, with exciting harvests expected throughout February. It's a fantastic hands-on lesson in farm-to-table practices, and we're thrilled to see our students learning where their food comes from while helping to provide it!

By incorporating locally sourced ingredients into our meals, we're not only nourishing our students but also connecting them to the community and the importance of sustainable farming. We can't wait to see what's next for our hydroponic harvests!

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS!

Based on the classic 1989 film. Westerberg High is ruled by a shoulder-padded, scrunchie-wearing junta: Heather, Heather and Heather, the hottest and cruelest girls in all of Ohio. But misfit Veronica Sawyer rejects their evil regime for a new boyfriend, the dark and sexy stranger J.D., who plans to put the Heathers in their place - six feet under.

WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB & COMMUNITY THEATER
PROUDLY PRESENT

HEATHERS

THE MUSICAL

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

MARCH 20 & 21 AT 7:00PM

MARCH 22 AT 3:00PM

SUGGESTED
AUDIENCE
AGES 13+



PATRICIA LINDLEY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

627 NORTH MAIN ST. WELLINGTON, OH 44090

DOORS OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE CURTAIN.

TICKETS \$6/\$11

Westwood IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

- 4: Parent Co-op Meeting @ 6pm (WWE Library)
- 11: K-Kids Meeting @ 3pm (WWE Cafe)
- 14: No School - Staff Professional Development Day
- 17: No School - Presidents Day
- 21: 25/26 Kindergarten Registration Opens *tentative*
- 27: Yearbook Sale Starts
- 21: Kiwanis Pancake Day - Times TBD (Wellington Eagles)

MARCH

- 3: Mobile Dentist Visit
- 4: Parent Co-op Meeting @ 6pm (WWE Library)
- 5: Stoller Fundraiser Start
- 10: Yearbook Sale Ends
- 11: K-Kids Meeting @ 3pm (WWE Cafe)
- 17 & 20: Kindergarten Screening (LCCC Wellington) *tentative*
- 19: Stoller Fundraiser Ends
- 21: End of 3rd Quarter

APRIL

- 1: 3rd Grade State Test - ELA
- 1: Parent Co-op Meeting @ 6pm (WWE Library)
- 2: Parent Teacher Conferences (3:15pm-7:30pm)
- 3: 3rd Grade State Test - ELA
- 5: Duke Pride Carnival (8am-12pm @ WHS)
- 8: K-Kids Meeting @ 3pm (WWE Cafe)
- 10: Stoller Fundraiser Delivery
- 14-21: No School - Spring Break
- 22: School Resumes
- 29 & May 1: 3rd Grade State Test - Math



Wellington Exempted Village Schools

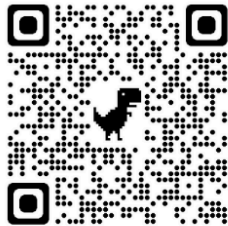
2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration



ONLINE REGISTRATION

**Available Starting
February 21, 2025**

www.wellingtonvillageschools.org/Kindergarten



Kindergarten Screening

will take place March 17th or 20th at LCCC-Wellington. Screening date and time will be scheduled when registration forms are submitted.

WELCOME DUKES!

CLASS OF 2038!

According to the Ohio Dept of Education

"Compulsory school age, or the minimum age in which a child must be enrolled in and attend school, is age 6. A family can choose to wait until the child is 6 before enrolling them in Kindergarten." A child must be at least 5 years old by August 1 to enter Kindergarten.
(WEVSD Board Policy)

Registration Questions?

Daniel Rahm, Student Services Director • (440) 647-7907

Screening Questions?

Kimberley Milks, Westwood Principal • (440) 647-3636

**Westwood
Elementary**

"WHERE THE DUKE BEGINS"

305 Union Street Wellington, OH 44090

LEARNING AROUND OUR DISTRICT



LEARNING AROUND OUR DISTRICT



WRESTLING ACTION

Photo credit: Christen Lewis



DUKES WINTER SPORTS

Photo credit: Russ Gifford



BASKETBALL



Photo credit: Russ Gifford

CONGRATULATIONS!



Senior Johnnie Kinter signs to play baseball at Lake Erie College



Pictured left to right: Superintendent Andy Peltz, Athletic Director John Bowman, WHS Baseball Coach Dan Davison, Johnnie Kinter, John Kinter, Football Coach Rob Howells and WHS Principal Shyla Urban.

Congratulations to senior Johnnie Kinter! He signed his declaration of intent to play baseball at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio. Kinter shared that he is “looking forward to the competitive level of play at Lake Erie. I am thankful for my dad who has coached me since I was four, and to Coach Davison. I’m speechless. They worked hard to get me to the right camps and showcases and in front of the right coaches. Baseball has always been my thing and I’m excited for the future.”

Coach Davison commented that “Johnnie has always worked hard and been self motivated and always put in the extra work.” His parents, Stacey and John Kinter shared that “Johnnie has played all positions throughout his career and has good speed and arm strength. He’s mainly a pitcher and middle infielder.” Mr. Bowman stated “Johnnie worked extremely hard to earn the opportunity to play Division 2 collegiate baseball. He balanced extra workouts while playing three high school sports. I’m glad that his hard work paid off!”

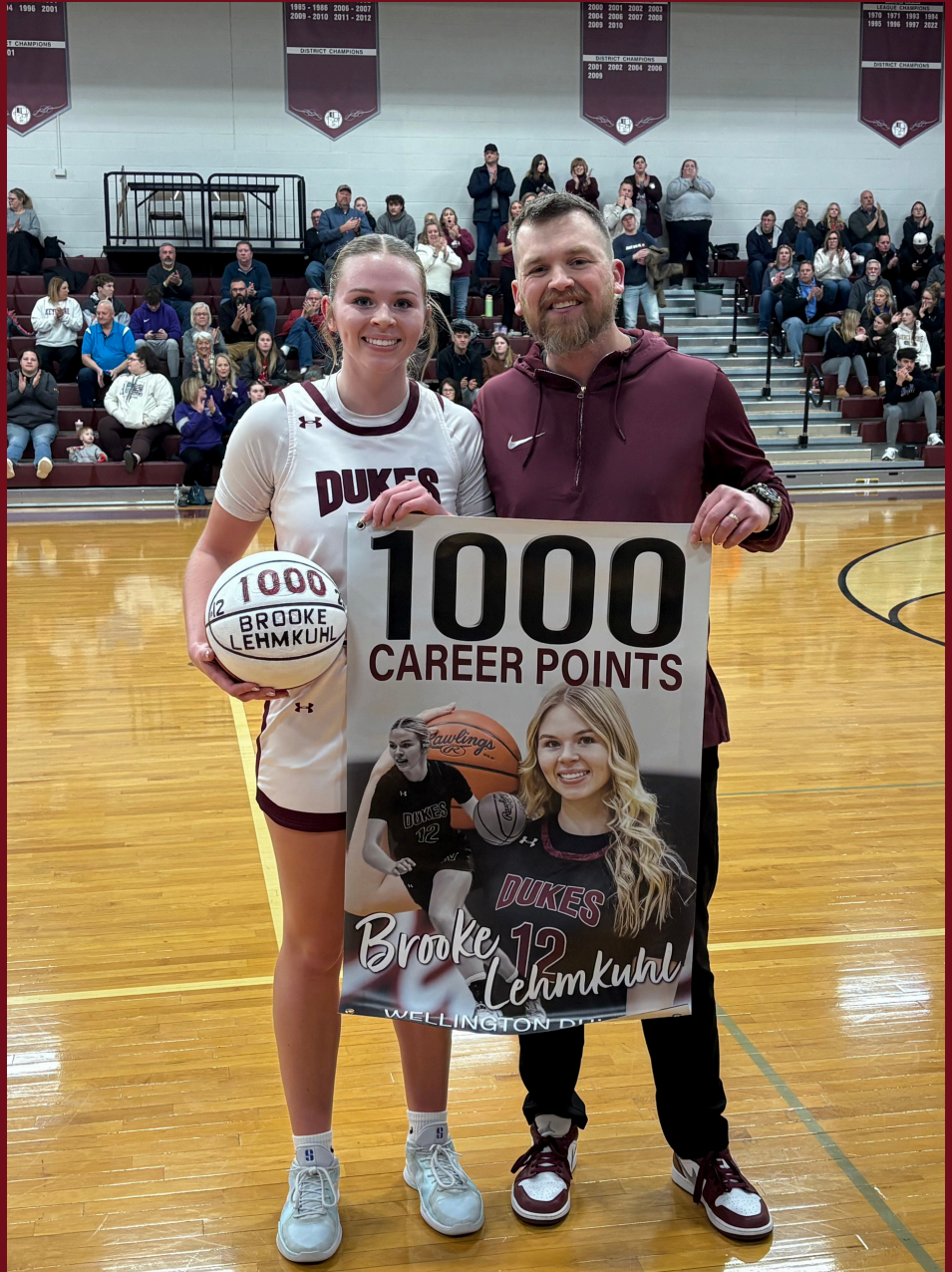
Johnnie will play this spring for WHS baseball. We are proud of you Johnnie, congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS, BROOKE!

Congratulations to
Brooke Lehmkuhl
scoring her 1,000th
career point against
New London!

December 30, 2024

Way to go, Brooke!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Congrats!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Great work!



National Honor Society empowers, champions and recognizes well-rounded students. NHS elevates a culture of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.