



WELLINGTON

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2



THIS ISSUE

Attendance Goals

Student Services Team

Nutrition Program - Local Apples

Treasurer's Office Update

ODE Report Card

Thank you School Custodians!

Wellness & P.B.I.S. News

H.E.A.R.T. & Kindland News

Images from around our District

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 3: Tri-C Westwood Fundraiser ends

Oct. 3: BOE Work Session Meeting at 6 p.m. Westwood cafeteria

Oct. 5 & 19: MMS Builder's Club Meeting 3 - 4 p.m. Room 100 MMS

Oct. 9 - 13: MMS Carnation Sale for Sweetest Day

Oct. 10: Westwood Picture Day

Oct. 17: BOE Business Meeting at 6 p.m. Westwood cafeteria

Oct. 19: MMS Choir Concert 7 p.m. Lindley Center

Oct. 22: Co-op Craft Show noon - 6 p.m. MMS Gym

Oct. 22: Co-op Trunk-or-Treat 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. MMS Parking Lot

Oct. 24 & 26: Third Grade Fall State Test

Oct. 27: End of 1st Quarter Grading Period

Oct. 31: Halloween Parade at Westwood (Time TBD)

WELCOME TO FALL

LETTER FROM EDWARD WEBER, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Wellington families,

We are five weeks into the 2023-2024 school year. It has been wonderful to see our students back in classrooms learning and growing. Our staff is dedicated to helping every student succeed.

District-wide, our attendance goal for students and staff is 95%. Research proves that a vital factor in student achievement is attendance. The message "yay, you're here today!" rings true at all buildings for our Dukes. Missing more than ten percent of school can have long-lasting, negative effects on your child's future. By documenting and celebrating positive attendance throughout our district, our goal to improve attendance can be achieved.

We pledge to do our best to communicate with you throughout the school year to make this an excellent year for the families we serve. See page 2 of the newsletter to take our community survey. Our goal with this survey is to gain a deeper understanding of how we can most efficiently communicate with you throughout the year. We appreciate your time taking the survey, as this provides valuable feedback for us.

Please reach out to me anytime for assistance. My office number is (440) 647-4286. Thank you for your support in your child's education.

Good luck to all of our fall sports athletes.

Sincerely,
Edward Weber

MEET OUR STUDENT SERVICES TEAM!



From left to right:

Sean MacKellar (School Psychologist), Pattie Roush (Special Education Coordinator), Katie O'Connor (Behavior Specialist), Joslyn Orsik (Secretary) and Daniel Rahm (Director of Student Services.)

DUKE PRIDE

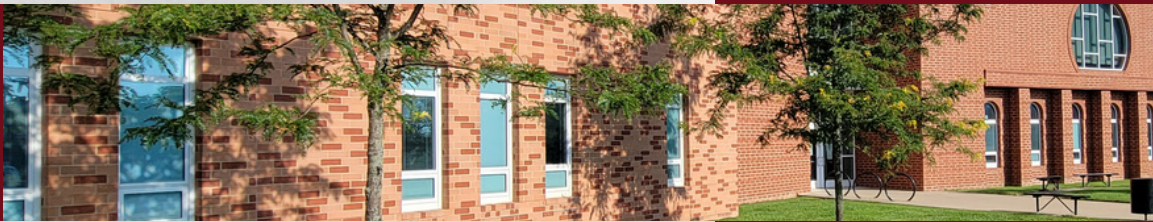
Every Friday, High School students help Westwood students out of their cars in the morning car drop-off line.

It is a fun day, with music and excitement in the air!



Learn more about Student Services [on our website here.](#)

STUDENT SERVICES



Wellington Students get involved in the Youth Fund, a leadership group in Lorain County working towards driving meaningful change.

Students in grades 8 -12 have the opportunity to participate in Youth Fund, a part of the Community Foundation of Lorain County, to meet monthly to learn about the grantmaking and development process.


Stay tuned to the November newsletter to see which Dukes are part of this leadership team!

[Please click here to take our communications survey!](#)


We appreciate your feedback.



WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT



Your Voice Matters!



COMPLETE THE WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS'

COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

OPEN FROM
SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 27

Your feedback helps us understand the Wellington Community's needs and preferences, allowing us to improve our communication and better serve our students, families and community as a whole.

NUTRITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. HELTON



Andrea Helton,
MS, RDN LD
Director of Nutrition
Services

The week of October 9 - 13 is National School Lunch Week!

"The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) serves nearly 30 million children every school day. President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week (NSLW) in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom." (Ohio Department of Education.)

We are excited to celebrate school lunch week with all of our Dukes!

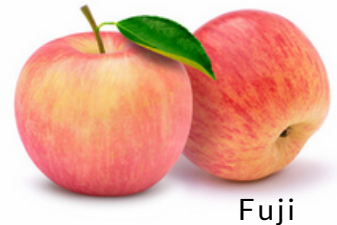


Local Apples used throughout the year at Wellington schools

We are proud to serve students local apples throughout the school year. Our nutrition services department works with Bauman Orchards, family owned since 1929, and located in Rittman, to supply us with apples.

Which variety is your favorite or your child's favorite? We serve fuji, McIntosh and gala apples from Bauman Orchards. The variety changes throughout the year based on availability.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your food services account for your student(s), please reach out to the Director of Nutrition Services, Andrea Helton, ahelton@wellingtonvillageschools.org, (440) 647-7415.



Fuji



McIntosh



Gala



TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE

Dear Wellington Families,

The Wellington Board of Education has some important information to share with our neighbors and friends.

Our school district has a renewal levy on the November ballot and we want you to be well informed about how this levy impacts the education of our most precious resource – our children.

Please take the time to carefully read the FAQs and explore our website for additional information about school funding. At Wellington Schools, we take the responsibility of educating your children very seriously and enjoy the partnership we have with the entire community.

On November 7, 2023 the Wellington School voters will be asked to vote on a 10-year Emergency Renewal levy (Issue # 19) for the Wellington Exempted Village Schools. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about the levy and how the funds will be used to support the quality of education provided to our community's children.

1. Why are the schools seeking renewal of the emergency levy?

The Wellington School District is seeking the renewal of a 10-year Emergency Renewal levy on November 7, 2023. This levy, which was originally approved in 2011 and renewed in 2014, contributes approximately \$1 million annually to the district's \$15 million operating revenue. Approval of this levy will continue the same level of funding through December 31, 2034.

2. How much will the levy renewal cost me?

Since this is a renewal, there will be No additional cost to taxpayers with its approval. The levy is for a fixed dollar amount and will not generate more revenue than the fixed amount.

3. What is the difference between an Operating Levy and an Emergency Operating levy?

An operating levy seeks a certain millage rate that will provide increased or decreased revenue every three years when property value is reappraised. In districts with little growth from construction, levies of this type essentially provide no inflationary revenue growth. Operating levies can be continuing or for a set number of years.

An emergency levy is a type of operating levy. It is submitted to the voters as a fixed dollar amount. While a millage amount will appear on the ballot, it is advisory only. The mills are adjusted annually to bring in the amount requested and approved. The amount of money collected with this levy does not grow, even with new construction. An Emergency Levy can NOT be continuing and can be for a maximum of 10 years before a renewal issue must be approved to continue the revenue source.

4. How are the funds from the levies used in the Wellington Schools?

Funds from the levy help to support and maintain our current level of programming. This covers the daily operating expenses of the Wellington Schools, including educational programs, utilities, transportation, technology, textbooks, building and grounds maintenance, staff, and classroom expenses. The district aims to provide excellent educational programming for all students.

5. What has the district done to contain district costs?

The district has taken steps to contain costs over the years through conservative spending and budgeting practices. This includes re-negotiating contracts with vendors, reducing energy costs, and reviewing staff positions for potential reductions in collaboration with the union membership.

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Mark Donnelly

Treasurer

(440) 647-7979

mdonnelly@wellingtonvillage
schools.org



TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE

6. What steps has the District taken to improve services and facilities?

The district has invested in improving safety on playgrounds, received safety grants to enhance security in buildings, and made updates to facilities such as the High School gym, roof repairs, parking lots, and classroom technology upgrades. New course offerings have also been added to provide enhanced learning opportunities.

7. What has been Wellington Schools history with renewal levies?

Wellington Schools has had a total of three (3) renewal levies in our history. All of these levies passed with very strong support from the community. The current issue was originally approved in 2011 and has been renewed in 2014. That history of approval and renewal demonstrates the community's support and understanding of the importance of this vital revenue source.

8. Where can I find additional information regarding the levy and how the school funding system works?

Please Visit the Schools' official website at wellingtonvillageschools.org and navigate to the Treasurer's Office main page under "Our District". Scroll down to the bottom. There, you will find links to School Funding 101, School Funding 102, and School Funding 103. Click on the respective links to access and review these documents. They should provide detailed information about how the school funding system works and help you understand the levy and the school's financial processes.

If you have specific questions or would like to discuss school finances further, you can contact the Treasurer, Mark Donnelly, at 440-647-7979.



Check out the amazing artwork from Westwood and McCormick!



ODE REPORT CARD UPDATE



Westwood Elementary School
Exceeds State Standards



Wellington High School
Exceeds State Standards

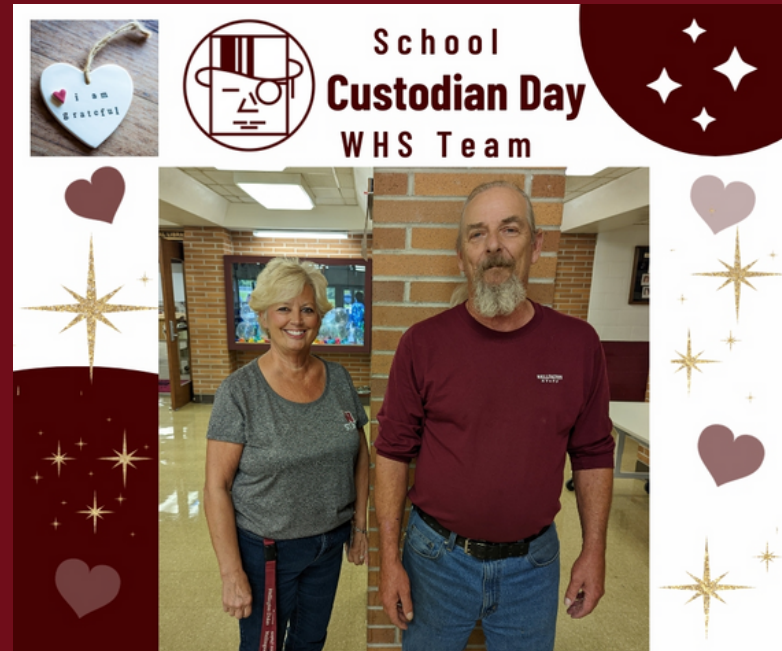
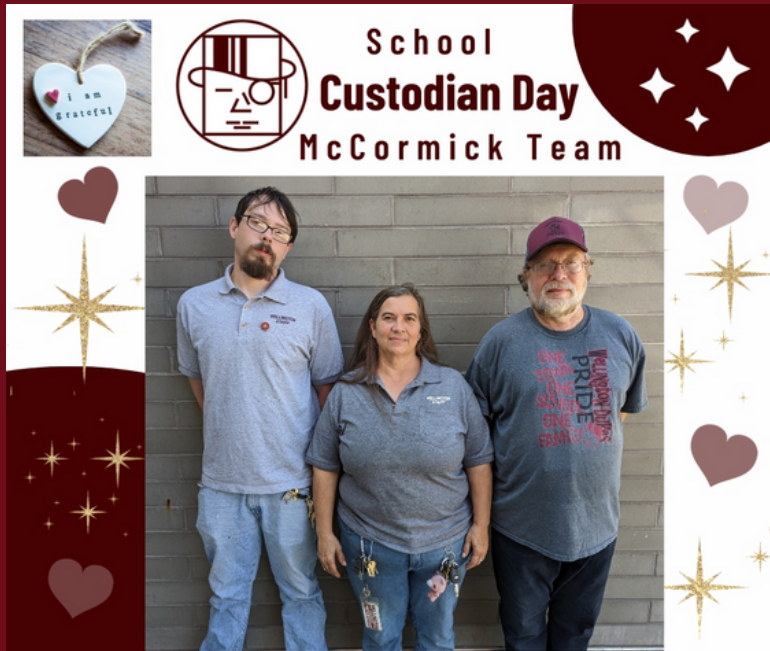
Shout out to our wonderful staff for improving our ratings for the 2022/2023 school year!

Visit the ODE website for further details.



McCormick Middle School
Meets State Standards

SCHOOL CUSTODIAN DAY!

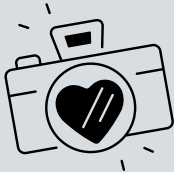


Shout out to our amazing custodian teams who are so vital to our school operations!
Thank you!

Thank you for being a role model. For getting our school ready for visitors, for putting in the late hours, for always saying hello, for always being willing to lend a helping hand, and most importantly for caring for our students. Thank you for all of the hard work that you do for our schools.



Thank you for being fearless. You put student health before you own and show up every single day to keep our children safe and healthy. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for being caring. You go above and beyond your job description every day, quietly watching over our students in the hallways and making sure nothing seems out of place. Thank you for putting our students first. Thank you for making sure our doors are locked, drafty windows are fixed, and playground equipment is in tip-top condition.



2023 Homecoming game vs. Brookside
Dukes win 34 - 14!



Photo Credit: Russ Gifford

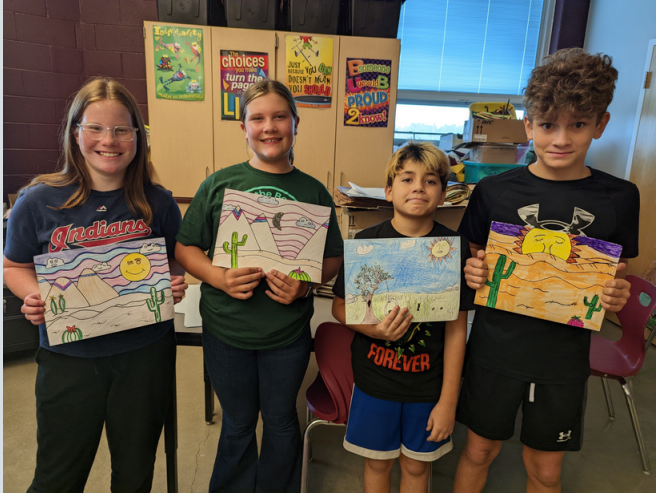
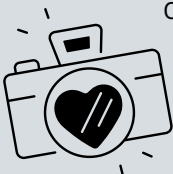




Honoring Mapleton student #21 Bre McKean

Fourth grade students in Mrs. Perchinske’s class working on creating salt dough maps of Ohio in their STEM unit





WELLNESS NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

On behalf of McCormick Middle School, our Dean of Climate and Culture, Nathan Morris, will be applying for the You Belong Grant through the Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services (MHARS) Board of Lorain County. If received, the grant will provide a minimum of \$2,000 in funding to support Kindland and H.I.K.E club (Helping Include Kids Everywhere) activities. The MHARS Board will be awarding up to 14 grants to middle schools across the county.



McCormick P.B.I.S. winners!

Congratulations to (L-R) Felix Haynes (fifth grade), Morgan Gibbs (sixth grade), Gabe Chavez (fourth grade), Harper Anderson (sixth grade) and Cameron Pugh (sixth grade, not pictured.)

McCormick kicked off the year with a PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports) assembly on the first day of school. Students met in the Lindley Center to learn about PBIS and our Duke pride matrix. They then completed classroom lessons of pride during the first few weeks of school to highlight expectations during the school year. McCormick will continue to use validation cards to highlight positive behaviors around the school and give students the opportunity to receive prizes in weekly and monthly drawings. Teachers award Duke P.R.I.D.E. tickets to students and staff when they exhibit P.R.I.D.E. characteristics. P.R.I.D.E. stands for being Positive, Respectful, having Integrity, being Dedicated and giving 100% Effort.

LifeAct will be providing suicide prevention programming to the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students during the school year. LifeAct uses the Signs of Suicide program to educate middle and high school students on how to recognize depression and the warning signs of suicide, and how to access help for themselves and their peers. Second Step guided lessons will be provided to 4th and 5th grade students by our school counselor Amy Sherman.

Emily Winfield, (Prevention Specialist Assistant) from LCADA Way will be offering a "Voices for Change" Club for our high school students. Voices for Change is a school-based youth group that started in North Ridgeville High School. The group began during the 2019 school year and was developed by two students who felt their classmates needed more support and education for making healthy decisions and living with a balanced sense of wellness. Emily will also be offering a "Risky Business" class in 9th grade health class. This is a six session intervention that includes topics like decision making, youth and violence, and youth and gambling. This program was developed by Windy A. Richlen and Josephine F. Wilson with Wright State University

Let's be friends!


Like us on Facebook!

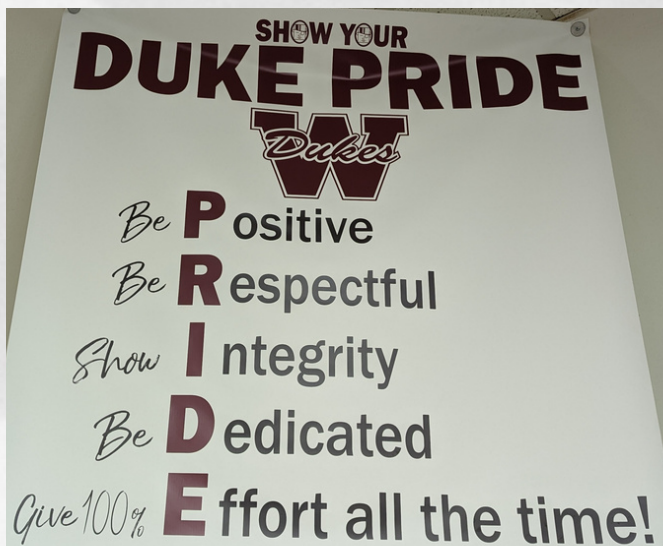
Wellington Exempted Village Schools
Westwood Elementary School
McCormick Middle School
Wellington High School



DUKE P.R.I.D.E. MATRIX

McCormick Middle School Duke P.R.I.D.E. Matrix

	Arrival Dismissal Bus	Stairway Hallway	Cafeteria	Classroom Library Gym Playground	Restroom	PAC	Technology
Positive	Duke Salute	Be polite and courteous	Keep conversations polite and friendly	Have self control and choose a positive attitude	Give privacy to others	Applaud politely at performances	Use for educational purposes only
Respectful	Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself	Walk safely and stay to the right	Respect everyone and personal space Say please and thank you	Respect school property Respect school staff	Respect facilities and supplies	Respect the property and clean up	Care for school technology
Integrity	Walk using the sidewalk or steps	Go directly to destination	Sign out if leaving the cafeteria	Be on time and prepared to work	Wash your hands	Enter and exit in an orderly fashion	Use assigned device and Google account only
Dedicated	Arrive on time	Use appropriate language	Focus on eating and staying seated	Set a positive example	Return to class as soon as possible	Sit quietly and be attentive	Turn off person devices and store in your locker
Effort	Be Safe	Keep the floors clean	Clean up	Strive to learn and improve	Clean up	Keep an open mind	Charge device before school



NEW HIRES LEARN H.E.A.R.T.



A group of new hires expressed a range of customer service tools they either gained or had reinforced following their recent Communicate with H.E.A.R.T. training. Most respondents indicated that the training helped them feel more confident in demonstrating the principles of the S.T.A.R.T. with H.E.A.R.T., the engagement tool that includes smiling genuinely, utilizing nonverbal communication to express interest in a dialogue, introducing themselves, and explaining their roles, and other rapport-building behaviors.

Responses to “Respond with H.E.A.R.T.” (the service failure recovery model,) ranged from moderately confident to extremely confident in applying the principles if faced with an actual felled service promise.

One respondent credited the training with providing helpful suggestions on how to respond to social problems, and for making customers—parents, students, fellow employee, and visitors—feel more welcome; while another wrote that the examples of active listening, smiling, and utilizing sympathy and empathy appropriately were the training’s most valuable elements. These were illustrated in role playing and a PowerPoint presentation during the training devised by the Cleveland Clinic.

The class of new hires was a mix of teachers, administrators, kitchen staff and various other positions. One of the hallmarks of the training is to mix and match job classifications in classes to underscore the message that everyone in the district is part of the Wellington school’s community.

Parents, colleagues, and visitors are encouraged to utilize the Communicate with H.E.A.R.T. survey on the district’s website as a way of measuring the training’s effectiveness.



[Visit our website to take our H.E.A.R.T. Survey.](#)

IN THE NEWS



Wellington Schools embrace Kindland

Wellington's Westwood Elementary School was awash in kindness as an attentive group of kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students was immersed in the interactive Kindland experience. Presented by Cleveland, Ohio-based, non-profit Values-in-Action Foundation founded by Stuart Muszynski, the Kindland movement is bringing together communities, businesses, organizations, and schools by recognizing and sharing the acts of kindness. The goal is to create a community that can sustain a unified sense of kindness, compassion, empathy and understanding that help in finding solutions to prominent issues including poverty, social justice, racism, and political polarization.

In the village of Wellington in southern Lorain County, Kindland was introduced to the high school in the spring of 2022 at a "Kindness, Stick Together" anti-bullying rally. Students at McCormick Middle School experienced the Kindland program next. In February 2023, during Kindness Month, the Kindland initiative was expanded to Westwood Elementary School.

The interactive rallies invited students to reflect on definitions of kindness and bullying and to imagine what—if any—changes might be needed to create a kinder environment at their schools. The rallies included a video and slideshow that highlighted acts of kindness and offered students the opportunity to join in a pledge to stick together against bullying and to stop hurtful teasing.

To create a peer-to-peer thread in the presentations, three high school students hosted the high school and McCormick Middle School rallies, while two middle school students shared hosting duties at Westwood Elementary. On stage, the student hosts demonstrated how easily duct tape tears apart when separated into single strips but cannot easily be torn apart when stuck together. The exercise provides a fun way to explore the

important social-emotional learning concepts of kindness and sticking together to increase kindness, combat bullying, and decrease negative behaviors while encouraging students to find friends to avoid isolating themselves in the school community.

The rally concluded with students and staff signing their names to strips of duct tape pressed onto a "Be Kind" banner to be displayed in a busy school hallway or cafeteria wall. Students left the rally with Kindland wristbands and bookmarks.

Superintendent Ed Weber was excited to bring Kindland to the district, saying he thought it meshed well with the district's PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies) initiatives. "We had already instituted Communicate with H.E.A.R.T., a compassionate communications training for our staff, and I saw Kindland as a useful platform for our students."

The rallies have been accompanied by classroom lessons and an APP that allows users to capture acts of kindness and upload them to Kindland's Facebook page with Wellington's #beWELLington hashtag.

Wellington Kindland ambassadors have also participated in a Support Local Saturday event in the village to spread kindness and raise awareness of the program, asking residents what they love about Wellington. During RAK (Random Acts of Kindness)

week, high school students shared what they love about Wellington on red hearts that were displayed in the windows of the Main Street Wellington office in advance of the Support Local event.

In the new school year, Kindland is moving toward further incorporating its grade-level lessons in each Wellington school with a closer PBIS tie.

Dr. Janet Kubasak, Westwood's principal and chief morale booster, said while Westwood champions its students daily, "Kindland is a timely addition to enhance the positive, kind behavior we want to model here at Westwood and throughout the district."

For more information regarding Kindland, visit <https://www.viafdn.org/kindland>.

Kindland's message of care, thoughtfulness, and mutual respect is in line with the positive behavioral message we promote at Wellington. Kindland provides lessons and practices we can use to promote kindness and mutual respect.

**CRISTY HESS
THIRD GRADE TEACHER
WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY, WELLINGTON**

KINDLAND SUMMIT



Wellington Shines at Kindland Summit

Wellington's involvement in Kindland was highlighted at the organization's first Kindland Summit held at Cleveland State University's Student Center. Superintendent Weber joined other superintendent's and educators on a panel titled "What Role Do Schools Have to Create an Ecosystem of Kindness?"

"We have to be willing to invest our time and talents to truly disciple our students," said Mr. Weber. "We have 168 hours in a week to choose how we can be disciples of kindness."

Prior to the education panel discussion, a video/slide show highlighted Wellington's Kindland anti-bullying, stick together school rallies, students signing gratitude boards, and several wearing Kindland t-shirt and wristband swag.

The Summit, an outgrowth of Stuart Muszynski's Values-in Action Foundation, which launched Kindland two years ago, featured panels from business, politics, faith-based groups, and media all grappling with how better to model and spread kindness.

A table tent card at each Summit table presented a list of bullet point benefits of kindness including: kindness reduces anxiety and depression, increases energy and happiness, boosts self-esteem, and makes people healthier among other benefits.



Mr. Weber with veteran newscaster Leon Bibb at the Kindland Summit event