

GO DUKES!



@WELLINGTON SCHOOLS

A digital newsletter from the
Wellington Exempted Village Schools

APRIL 2023 | VOL 3 ISSUE 7



Wellington High School FFA students prepare and serve breakfast for WHS staff in appreciation of their support throughout the year.

Important dates:

April 3-10: Spring Break
April 11: Classes resume

April 11: BOE Business meeting at
6 p.m. at Westwood

April 15: Duke Pride Carnival at WHS
FREE breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m.
Carnival from 9 a.m. to Noon

May 6: Prom at 7 p.m. at Tom's
Country Place (Avon)

May 9: MMS/WHs: Festival of Bands
at 7 p.m. at Lindley Center

May 11: WHS: Choir Spring Concert
at 6:30 p.m. at Lindley Center

May 12: MMS Jr. High Formal from
6 to 8 p.m. at MMS

May 19: Last day for seniors

May 21: Graduation at 2:30 p.m. at
WHS

For a complete calendar, go to
wellingtonvillageschools.org

Last quarter! GO DUKES!

Letter from Edward Weber, Superintendent
eweber@wellingtonvillageschools.org

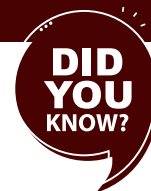
The Wellington High School Drama Club and Community Theater are busy preparing for the musical, "Little Shop of Horrors." This fantastic musical runs March 30 through April 1 at the Patricia Lindley Center, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. and the show starting at 7 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$11 (students and seniors are \$6.) This production is directed by English Language Arts Teacher, Dave Conklin with assistant director Media Specialist Emily Campofredano.

Thank you to the Wellington Kiwanis and all who assisted with the recent State of Wellington program. Our school treasurer Mark Donnelly and I made presentations featuring updates from around our district. It is always a pleasure to hear about the exciting initiatives happening in Wellington from leaders Mayor Hans Schneider and Village Manager Jonathan Greever.

I shared our Strategic Plan for Wellington students and staff. Six goals are guiding us through our plan: Academic achievement and programming, a climate and culture of wellness, safe and secure facilities, increased internal and external communication, finance and accountability and finally, human resources and staff support. Every day we are working on advancing these six goals to fulfill our Strategic Plan. To view a video regarding the plan, click [here](#).

Mr. Donnelly presented a snapshot of the district's strong financial position. We are reinvesting in our district to improve safety and security in addition to ensuring 21st century learning is here in our classrooms through new technology for students. Our [website](#) includes the five-year budget forecast, utility expenditures, financial reports and audit details. With the goal of increasing communication, we are ensuring that our community has full access to how our school is running financially.

It's the last quarter of the school year, finish strong Dukes! Enjoy Spring Break!



Updates from the Treasurer's Office

Mark Donnelly
Treasurer
440-647-7979
mdonnelly@wellingtonvillageschools.org



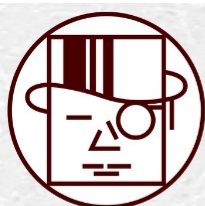
Please take some time to review the Treasurer's page on the [district website](#) and explore how your tax dollars are used to benefit the students and the community. Thank you for your support of our school district.

Oberlin Choristers Honor Choir



Several McCormick Middle School students were chosen by Wellington Schools vocal music teacher Sherry Arcuri to perform recently in the Oberlin Choristers Honor Choir. Dr. Jami Lercher served as this year's guest conductor for the Honor Choir. She is a professor at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music.

Congratulations to Arianna McGovern (grade 5); Maci Burns (grade 6); Kennedy Little (Grade 5); Chloe Oliver (grade 5); and Ambrie Rock (grade 5).



Vaccination Clinic

Who? All ages of students and adults!

What? Vaccine clinic

When? April 5, 2023 @ 2 - 6 p.m.

May 3, 2023 @ 2 - 6 p.m.

June 7, 2023 @ 2 - 6 p.m.

July 5, 2023 @ 2 - 6 p.m.

Where? Herrick Memorial Library (101 Willard Memorial Square)

How? Call 440-284-3206 to schedule an appointment

Appointments are needed

Hosted by Lorain County Public Health (LCPH).

Vaccines for all ages will be available to protect from common diseases, including and not limited to COVID-19, flu, pneumonia, shingles, measles, and whooping cough.

The first Wednesday of each month, 2 to 6 p.m. at Herrick Memorial Library.

Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lorain County Public Health -
9880 Murray Ridge Rd, Elyria

Request a record of past vaccines - no cost - at bit.ly/vaccinerecordrequest

H.E.A.R.T addresses difficult conversations

A key element of the district's evidenced-based Communicate with H.E.A.R.T. training is the Hostility Curve which diagrams how to deescalate a quarrelsome conversation. Unfortunately, not all of our exchanges are civil, especially if the complaint is of wrongdoing, a broken promise or a miscommunication. This is called service recovery, when in customer service parlance, you fix something that has gone wrong.

The initial H.E.A.R.T. (Hear, Empathize, Apologize, Respond, Thank) response to a difficult conversation is to first "Hear" the complaint or concern. While this is taking place, the conversation could still escalate. At this point, the model suggests inserting an empathetic phrase such as "I can see you're upset," "I know you're disappointed." A statement of empathy—or emotion naming-- has the power to slow down the agitation. It also is a way to show the aggrieved complainant compassion, a sign of the emotional intelligence H.E.A.R.T. promotes.

The next step is to "Apologize" presuming a verified service error or shortcoming has occurred. The "Respond" portion is when the action to correct or "right the wrong" takes place. It is important to note that the model strongly suggests not to "Empathize" before you have clearly heard what the complaining party is saying. And not to "Apologize" before offering an empathetic statement. By implementing these steps of H.E.A.R.T., most entangled conversations will have a satisfying end, and serve to enhance the district's customer experiences.

Hostility curve from
H.E.A.R.T. Training



For more information on S.T.A.R.T.
with Heart, contact H.E.A.R.T.
Trainer, Ronald Kisner at
440-647-7409 or
rkisner@wellingtonvillageschools.org



TAKE SURVEY



Wellness news from around our district

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Month raises awareness of trauma and the impact it can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities. Mental Health Month was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives, and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. Mental health is essential for a person's overall health. Prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can recover from mental disorders and live full and productive lives. For more information on how you can assist those in your life who may have mental health issues, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

Erika's Lighthouse Positivity Pledge is your opportunity to commit to 31 days focused on positive actions, helping others, selfcare, and establishing good habits for positive mental health. To view and participate in Erika's Lighthouse Mental Health Month Positivity Pledge, click [here](#).

Kids In Gear (formerly Girls in Gear) Summer Camp is coming to Wellington this summer. Kids in Gear (GIG) is a bicycling program designed to create self reliance and build confidence by engaging youth in the following areas:

1. Basic bicycle safety
2. Basic bicycle mechanics
3. Nutrition education
4. Community urban design
5. Public speaking



It is the first program to creatively integrate STEM— Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics— activities, physical exercise and nutrition education by way of the bicycle. The camp is for students entering grades 4-8 in the 2023-2024 school year. All participants must know how to ride a bike. The Wellington camp is scheduled for May 30-31; and June 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, and will be held at McCormick Middle School. Silver Wheels and Thrive Southern Lorain County will be providing volunteers to assist during bike riding modules.

Due to the nature of this camp, participation will be limited to the first 12 registrants. Registration will be sent out soon via email to all parents of youth entering grades 4-8 in the fall.

The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio has been providing four sessions of their YouLead Series to our fifth-graders. The three areas they are covering are Anti-Bullying, Conflict Resolution, and Diversity 101. Prior to the first session, a virtual parent information was held a few weeks ago. The session was recorded for those unable to attend. Click [here](#) to view the presentation. A passive consent was sent to parents/guardians allowing them to opt their children out of program participation.



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WHS student athletes attend women's leadership event

Recently 15 female athletes and three Wellington athletic coaches attended the Women's Leadership Event at Hoop Tech Academy in North Ridgeville. Our strong Lady Dukes were inspired by three amazing speakers!

Speaker Hannah Watson is the former head volleyball coach at Notre Dame College and owns the business, Beyond Development. The business uses mental, emotional and physical training to improve athletic performance.

"Hannah taught us that what we can control is how we act ourselves as leaders," said WHS student athlete Grace Denes. "How we present and conduct ourselves has influence on our teammates, and the main part of leadership is having an influence on other people,"

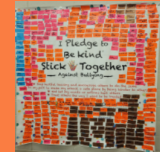
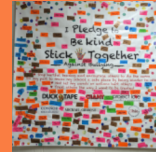
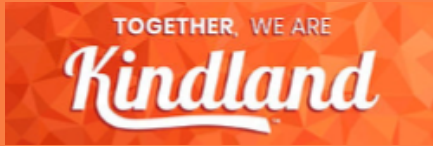
Speaker Julie Jones, University of Akron softball coach and positive performance mental training and visualization coach, shared her personal struggles with how to overcome hardships.

The student athletes also were able to test their vertical jump skills and wrote down thoughts about being athletes on posters.

One of the biggest takeaways for the students was the way you present yourself affects everyone else, too. Have a positive posture and lead yourself first, and then your teammates. The event was a great experience for our student athletes. Keep up the exceptional leadership on and off the court ladies. Go Dukes!

WHS student athletes attending the event included: Sophia Beck, Paige Bremke, Tatum Deidrick, Grace Denes, Katie Dickason, Alexa Gallion, Brooke Lehmkuhl, Gabby Miller, Camryn Morris, Taylor Morris, Mallory Pickering, Olivia Ramirez, Brooklyn Regal, Alaina Reynolds, and Lauren Vannatter.





Kindness collaborations across the district



Serenity Jones and Addison McConnell put together the Acts of Kindness strips from 180+ high schools students in to a chain. The chain was gifted to Westwood on their Stick Together Assembly day.



A Kindland Activity for the Family: March's Kindland Lesson "Meanness or Kindness Smoothie." You will need the following: Something to write on, something to write with, and your creativity.

Click [here](#) to watch Kindland's CEO demonstrate the difference between a Meanness and Kindness Smoothie. Write a recipe for a nourishing smoothie: Use the list of suggested character traits. Feel free to choose some of your own words as ingredients to create a positive nourishing smoothie. Use the measurements list to determine how much of each of your chosen ingredients will create the best smoothie.

Please share your creations and answer a few questions by scanning the QR or click [here](#). Results to the questions will be shown in the next newsletter. Thank you for participating.



Smoothie Ingredients (Character Traits)

Kindness	Self-Control
Love	Trust
Compassion	Gratitude
Forgiveness	Faith
Patience	Tolerance
Understanding	Politeness
Caring	Integrity
Resilience	Generosity
Courage	Thoughtfulness
Enthusiasm	Appreciation
Positive Attitude	Fairness
Friendship	Giving
Hope	Doing the right thing
Optimism	

Recipe Measurements

t or tsp = teaspoon
3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon
T or Tbsp = tablespoon
4 tablespoons = 1/4 cup
c = cup
1 cup = 1/2 pint
2 cups = 1 pint
oz = ounce
16 ounces = 1 pound or 1 pint
pt = pint
qt = quart
2 pints = 1 quart
4 cups = 1 quart
gal = gallon
2 quarts = 1/2 gallon
4 quarts = 1 gallon
lb or # = pound
dash or pinch =
less than 1/8 teaspoon



WHS student athletes Jonah Stump, Connor Sheppard and Joe Fox greet elementary students on a Friday morning.



Jenny Arntz, executive director and Shannon Meeks, president, realtor and Wellington Arts Leader from Mainstreet Wellington visit the high school to find out what students love about their community during Random Acts of Kindness Spirit Week. Hearts that were collected are displayed on the window at the Mainstreet Wellington downtown. What do you love about Wellington?

Representing Kindland at Support Small Business Saturday at Mainstreet Wellington are WHS freshman Jurnee Goulbourne, freshman, Lily Armstrong, Freshman; WHS library technician Kathleen Dickason, and sophomore Tiffany Sutton (photo above).



Students are excited to follow the Village event with a movie and are planning some fun crafts in the MMS cafeteria for those who come early or need to take a break.



Everyone across the district is working hard on fun activities and games for a fun filled morning.

Kindland contacts

Ronald Kisner

rkisner@wellingtonvillageschools.org

Kathleen Dickason

kdickason@wellingtonvillageschools.org

Easter EGG SCRAMBLE



Local Kids are Invited to Scramble for Candy-Filled Eggs and Prizes in the Wellington Village Square.

Rain location: Inside Wellington Town Hall.

**April
8th**

Scrambles By
Age Groups:

Pre-K

K and 1st

2nd and 3rd

4th and 5th grade

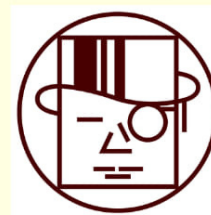
**10:30
am**

Don't forget your basket/bag!

**& Enjoy
a Free
Movie!**



Kindland



Catch a Showing of "Hop" at 1 p.m. at the
Patricia Lindley Center @ 627 N. Main St.

Doors Open at 12:30.



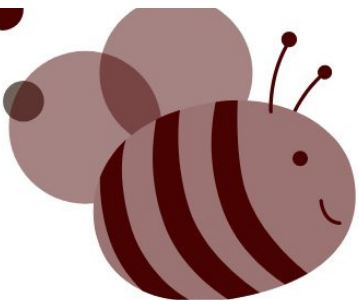
Students advance to Lorain County Spelling Bee

C-O-N-G-R-A-T-S to all our Spelling Bee participants (grades 3-6)!

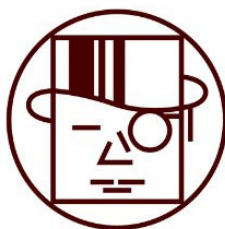
These top four students will move onto the Lorain County Spelling Bee (grades 5-6) on May 11: Coleton Phillips (1st), Nathanael Mann (2nd), Kennedy Little (3rd), and Sonny Logar (4th).

These top four students will move onto the Lorain County Spelling Bee (grades 3-4) on May 4: Felix Haynes (1st), Kennedy Saunders (2nd), Hudson Murner (3rd), and Cayden Gardner (4th).

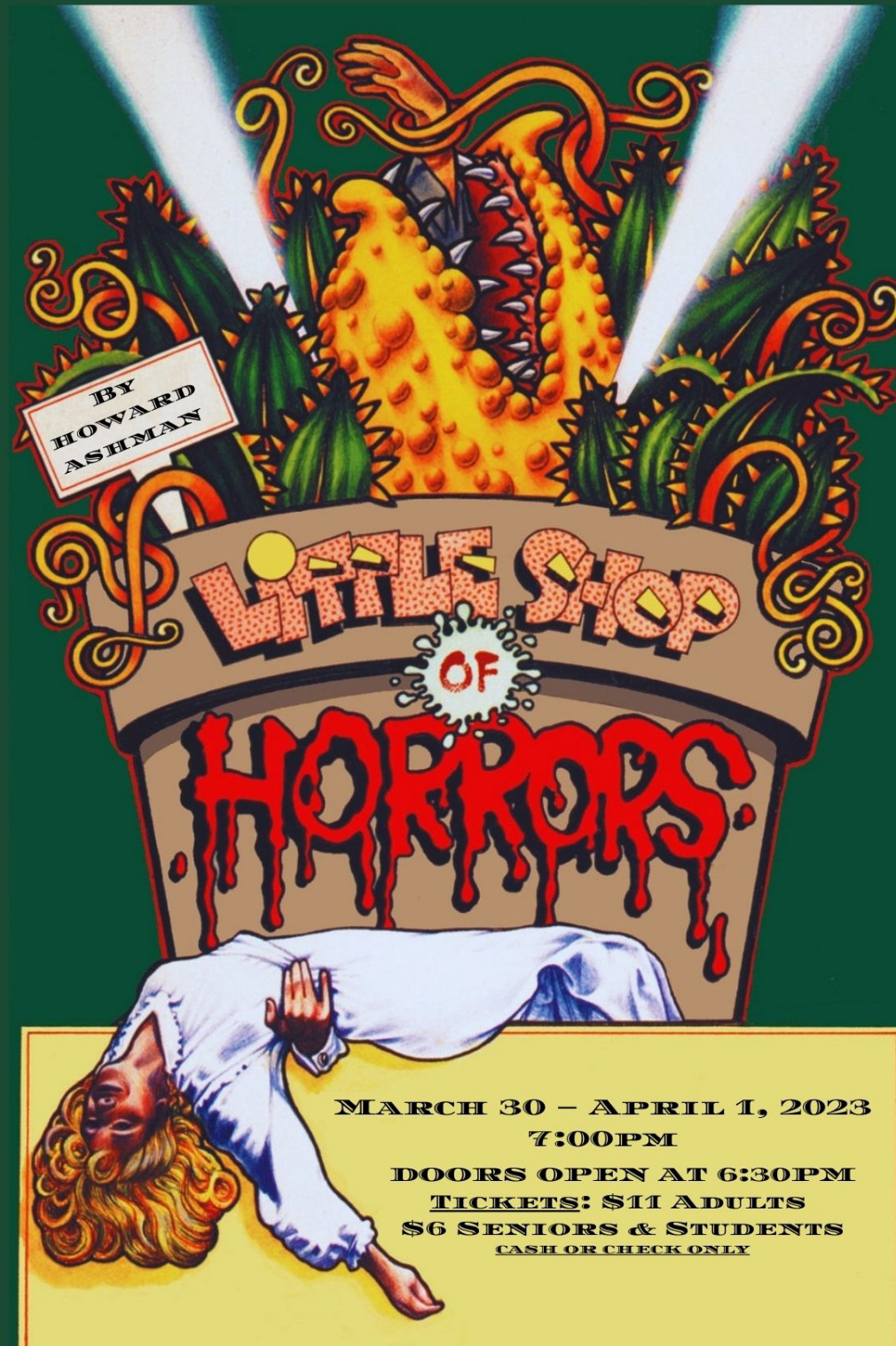
Mrs. Birchfield organized this year's Spelling Bee and the following teachers and staff helped to make it possible: Mr. Gundert, Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Hosack, Mr. Ronsky, and Mrs. Cianciola. Thank you all!



Spelling Bee

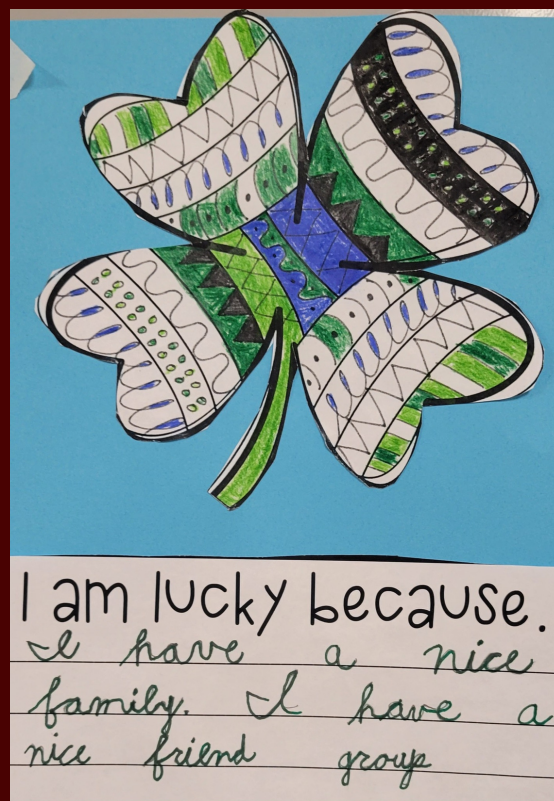


WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB & COMMUNITY THEATER
PROUDLY PRESENT



PATRICIA LINDLEY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
627 NORTH MAIN STREET WELLINGTON, OH 44090

Images from around our school district



WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Goals and Objectives

Strategic Plan

GOAL
#

1

Communication (Internal & External)

Develop clear expectations for all forms of internal staff communications so that each building level/department receives consistent and timely updates; ensure all staff members are knowledgeable and informed regarding important district information so that they can confidently act as stewards of the district's vision and decisions and avoid selective pockets and siloed information.



Establish a comprehensive external communications program to ensure community stakeholder engagement; create consistent communications that target community members, businesses, non-profit organizations and key stakeholders to create a supportive community environment; develop appropriate/multiple communications channels and tactics; create consistent district communication expectations with families.



Create two-way communication processes that allow the certified and classified staff to interact with the district administration.



Perform a comprehensive website audit to determine functionality and ease of information retrieval; ensure all components of the district website are up-to-date and consistently monitored.

GOAL
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2

Academic Achievement and Programming/Technology

Create and promote multiple pathways for college, career and life readiness via a relevant, rigorous and aligned K-12 curriculum; communicate a culture of high academic expectations regardless of a student's chosen pathway.



Effectively utilize technology as a transformative creation tool in the hands of students. Offer professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance their technology skills that could enhance classroom learning opportunities for all students.



Create classroom expectations that engage students in 21st century, problem/project-based and service-learning opportunities.



Enhance targeted academic resources for student subgroups including gifted and special needs learners. Consider the addition of support staff members to assist those students who need scaffolded supports.



Define a consistent process and data review system to determine appropriate gap closing measures and practices K-12.



Perform a comprehensive department/program audit review K-12; ensure that current courses are aligned with 21st century job market demand; consider the creation and infusion of new courses that are more deeply aligned to STEAM and other in-demand disciplines. Consider the creation or return of life-skills programming throughout the grade levels.



Perform an audit of curriculum vertical alignment as it pertains to grade level and building transitions.

GOAL
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3

Facilities, Safety and Security

Develop a master facilities plan to address both possible construction and long-term maintenance of current buildings.



Communicate the need for possible new construction and/or renovated facilities that meet the educational needs of the students to the community.



Engage the community to gather input from families and other stakeholders regarding the types of facilities for possible construction/renovation and the best use of those facilities in future years.



Review all aspects of physical security throughout the district to include reaction and response to any imposed/perceived threats; recommend changes to policy and application of best practice strategies; ensure consistent application of security protocol/procedures for district buildings and athletic events.

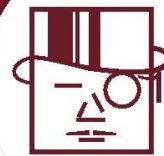


Provide facilities that prioritize student and staff safety, promote interaction, create engagement and provide an excellent environment for 21st century learning.

WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Goals and Objectives

Strategic Plan

GOAL
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4

Finance and Accountability

Create a regular, transparent communication's plan for all district expenditures. Communicate in multiple mediums, the 5-year forecast, as well as the building budgets and expenditures. Publish and promote a regular schedule of community friendly graphics to educate Wellington Exempted Village School's stakeholders and taxpayers more deeply on current and projected (future) expenditures; consistently communicate district financial picture to provide an accurate portrayal of financial standing.



Conduct annual comprehensive audits of district's revenue sources and non-payroll expenditures along with the state of the schools address. Communicate the financial status of the district during that address. Include information regarding like-district compensation and fringe benefit package audit; ensure competitive compensation to recruit and retain all district staff, both certified and classified.



Plan for district levy cycles (Including Operational and Bond Levies) to determine strategy for levy implementation in relation to potential facilities and operational needs.

GOAL
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5

Climate, Culture & Wellness

Create a district task force to examine positive behavior models and social-emotional curriculum K-12.



Review district anti-bullying policies and practices to ensure consistent implementation at each building and grade level.



Implement a diversity and equity advisory council using stakeholder feedback to assist in the development of a district diversity plan; consider continued work or partnership with the NEO Diversity Center of Cleveland; ensure district policies continue to promote inclusion and equity of underrepresented groups.



Advance school spirit through proactively planned activities and experiences; create consistent opportunities to display district pride and to celebrate student and staff accomplishments; establish districtwide standards for external display of school spirit in all buildings. Intentionally and purposefully communicate these accomplishments both internally and to all external stakeholders in the school community.



Create of an initiative that focuses upon staff morale and a Culture of Appreciation for the certified, classified and administrative personnel.

GOAL
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6

Human Resources and Staff Support

Provide customer service training for Wellington Exempted Village Schools employees to create a positive customer experience.



Conduct a comprehensive audit to ensure the proper staffing levels in each classroom; provide specific guidelines and expectations for paraprofessional/aide utilization.



Provide professional development opportunities and extended training for staff members related to student social-emotional and mental health needs; create mechanisms for dialogue to understand the complexities of home life and school life more deeply.



Implement a system of teacher, support staff and substitute recruitment to obtain the highest quality, diverse professional staff.

Contact us if you have any questions or concerns

Wellington Exempted Village Schools

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Wellington High School

Phone: (440) 647-3734

Donna Keenan, Principal

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As one of the district's Strategic Plan initiatives, the Wellington Village Schools would like to improve and increase communication with students, parents, staff and community members. @WellingtonSchools is a monthly digital newsletter distributed via email to our school families. For more information on our schools, check out our website, www.wellingtonvillageschools.org; or Facebook @WEVSD.