



WELLINGTON

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1



THIS ISSUE

Homecoming Dates
Meet The Student Services Team
Nutrition Program Highlights
Treasurer's Office Update
Service Awards
H.E.A.R.T. & Kindland News
Wellness News
First Day of School Photos

IMPORTANT DATES

September 11 - 15
Homecoming Week

Sept. 13: Powderpuff Game 7 p.m. at the stadium

Sept. 14: Bonfire 9 p.m. at the soccer fields

Sept. 15: Parade at 5:45 p.m. (starts at WHS, travels down Main Street to stadium)

Sept. 15: Homecoming Game vs. Brookside at 7 p.m.

Sept. 16: Homecoming Dance 7 p.m. in the WHS Dining Hall

Sept. 14: MMS Picture Day

Sept. 19: WHS Picture Day

Oct. 10: Westwood Picture Day

Sept. 19: BOE Business Meeting at 6 p.m. at MMS

Sept. 19 - 21 Fall MAPS testing MMS

Sept. 26 - Oct. 5 Fall MAPS Testing (K-3rd grade)

Sept. 28: Auditions "Miracle on 34th Street" 4 - 7 p.m. @ Lindley

For a complete calendar, go to wellingtonvillageschools.org

WELCOME BACK, DUKES

LETTER FROM EDWARD WEBER, SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome Back!

I am sure you are excited and anxious about the beginning of our new school year. Our staff has worked hard to ensure that our buildings are ready for you!

We pledge to do our best to communicate with you throughout the school year and to make this school year the best possible for the families we serve. Please know that you can reach out to me anytime for help or assistance. My office number is (440) 647-4286.

Thank you to the many students and staff members who worked this summer during one of our several summer programs. We are grateful for your participation and we hope that it helps make the new school year even more successful for you!

School Food & Nutrition Programs

We encourage all parents to utilize our online payment system, PaySchools Central. Cash and check payments are also accepted at school. Here is the link to our School Nutrition website where you can locate the Free and Reduced Lunch Program application and the PaySchool Central Link.

<https://www.wellingtonvillageschools.org/menus>.

Continued on page 2.

LETTER FROM EDWARD WEBER, SUPERINTENDENT

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School Bus Transportation

The Shuttle Service from-and-to the Stadium will return this year. We will start the shuttle beginning September 5th. Please click the link below and complete the sign-up if you plan to take the shuttle.

[Shuttle Sign Up Form](#)

Thank you for your support in your child's education. Our entire staff is ready to make this school year an excellent one!

Good luck to all of our fall sports athletes.
Go Dukes!

Sincerely,
Edward Weber

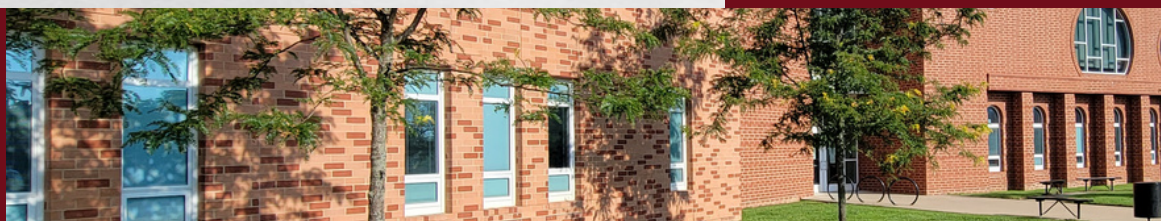
STUDENT COUNCIL

Homecoming Theme:
Under The Sea

Student Council painted the rock while they finalized Homecoming preparations!



STUDENT SERVICES



MEET SPECIAL EDUCATION
DIRECTOR

Daniel Rahm



WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

MEET SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGIST

Sean MacKellar



WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

MEET SPECIAL EDUCATION
COORDINATOR

Pattie Roush



WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

INTERVENTION SPECIALIST FOR
MATH IN GRADES FOUR AND FIVE

Rebecca McGuire



WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

MEET STUDENT SERVICES
SECRETARY

Joslyn Orsik



WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

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

Meet our Team!

Daniel Rahm: Special
Education Director

Pattie Roush: Special
Education Coordinator

Student services secretary
Joslyn Orsik has been in her
role since Oct. 2022.

Sean MacKellar: School
Psychologist

Rebecca McGuire:
Intervention Specialist at
McCormick

Sarah Gardner:
Paraprofessional at
Westwood

NUTRITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. HELTON



Andrea Helton,
MS, RDN LD
Director of Nutrition
Services

How to Add Money to Student Breakfast/Lunch Accounts:

We encourage all parents to utilize our online payment system, [PaySchools Central](#).

Cash and check payments are also accepted at school. For cash payment, students should have money in an envelope with the student's name written on it. Lunch money should be turned in to the teacher or given to the cashier.

Checks can be made out to Wellington Schools Nutrition Services Department. Please note, to keep lines moving, we do not give change back during service. Any surplus money will be added to a student's account for future purchases. If your student requires change back for a special circumstance, please send a signed note with cash payment.

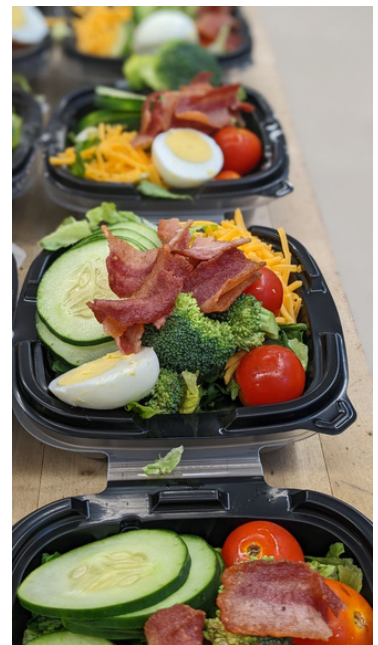


Notification of the Medicaid Pilot Program for Free and Reduced Price Meals

Ohio is one of the fourteen states selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to participate in the Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Project. This means, during the 2023-2024 school year, all households that receive Medicaid, and fall within income eligibility guidelines, will automatically qualify for free or reduced-price meals for their school aged- children.

If your household currently qualifies for Medicaid, you will NOT need to complete a free and reduced-price meal application. You will be receiving a letter in the mail by the end of September, indicating your child(ren)'s meal status.

If you currently receive Medicaid, but did not receive notification that you qualify, please reach out to the Director of Nutrition Services, Andrea Helton, ahelton@wellingtonvillageschools.org, (440) 647-7415.



TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM MR. DONNELLY

Welcome Back Staff and Students!

It seems as though the summer break just started a few weeks ago. Actually, it was almost 12 weeks ago, but they have flown by very quickly. During that time our custodial and maintenance staff members have been working hard to ensure the buildings are clean and ready for a new school year. Just about every piece of furniture has been taken out of each classroom and thoroughly wiped down and cleaned. Likewise, all classrooms have been deep cleaned to ensure all students have the best learning environment we can offer.

They have also been working on a wide variety of tasks that just could not be managed during the school year. They have painted several walls, waxed almost every floor, inspected all of the safety equipment, and made repairs to plumbing, lighting, and other areas that required a little TLC.

We have also started several projects funded by the Safety and Security Grants dollars we received last spring. We are implementing a system to monitor all outside doors from the main office so we can ensure all doors are closed and locked during the school day. We have added several new security cameras to help us keep our staff and students as safe as possible. There are a wide variety of other improvements as well.

One upgrade that did NOT happen this summer was the implementation of the new phone system. It was supposed to happen in July, however the vendor ran into some operational issues and we are working with them to ensure the new phones can be implemented smoothly when they are ready.

The Treasurer's office has closed the books on Fiscal 2023 and we are all set for a new and exciting year. We look forward to working with each and every one of our staff to ensure a great year for all of our students.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any question. We are here to assist you.

Have a great year!

Mark Donnelly
Treasurer
(440) 647-7979
mdonnelly@wellingtonvillage
schools.org



Thank you Mr. Friend, our amazing
Head Custodian at WHS!



The WHS gym underwent a
total transformation with
new bleachers and paint!

CONGRATULATIONS!

SERVICE AWARDS

**Congratulations to the following staff
for earning their milestone pins!**



5-YEAR PINS

Robert Howells - WHS
Stephanie King - Murray Ridge
Melanie Phillips - MMS
Hayley Sleggs - MMS/WHs

10-YEAR PINS

Holly O'Daley - WHS
Edward Brennan - Transportation

15-YEAR PINS

Jennifer Barlow - WW
Megan Birchfield - MMS
Leilani Cuson - WW
Kimberly Foster - WW
Daniel Gundert - WW
Cristy Hess - WW
Peter Keenan - MMS/WHs
Catherine Selzer - WW

20-YEAR PINS

Brenda Bosley - MMS
Katie Custar - MMS
Laura Gallatin - WW

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
DEDICATION TO OUR STUDENTS!**



WELLINGTON TEEMING WITH KINDNESS



Wellington's new school year opened on a wave of kindness. Two students wrote an award-winning Kindland-sponsored essay and poem envisioning a Kindland school community.

Each Kindland winner received \$1,000 from the Cleveland-based organization, an outgrowth of Stuart Muszynski's Values-in-Action Foundation. Kindland promotes acts of kindness in schools, businesses, and communities across Northeast Ohio.

In her essay, senior Nadia suggests showing more kindness in schools and elsewhere by employing the Golden Rule, and smiling more, before revealing, "There were two girls at my high school being bullied, and I wrote each of them a one-page letter telling them never to change and to keep being themselves because I liked the difference they bring to our high school." She concluded her essay writing, "We as human beings need to realize that something HAS to change before things get progressively worse."

In her Kindland poem, Madelyn, a freshman, expressed herself in rhyming paragraphs such as "In Kindland we respect each other's views, and never judge or criticize its truth. We learn from different cultures and beliefs and find common ground that brings relief." Her closing lines invite the reader to "come to Kindland, and you will find a place where love and kindness intertwine."

Several students in kindergarten to sixth grade participated in Kindland's Summer of Kindness Challenge. The challenge had students complete twenty one acts of kindness etched on a sheet resembling a Monopoly Board, with a suggested summer reading list on the back.

Westwood and McCormick collaborated with Kindland and the Herrick Memorial Library to sponsor the summer-long challenge. Participants received Kindland t-shirts and other swag, and their completed boards were entered into the Kindland organization's drawing for additional prizes.

Students who took the Summer of Kindness Challenge placed smiley face stickers on blocks of completed kindness challenges. Examples of challenges including helping to bring in the groceries, holding the door open for someone, doing a chore without being asked, or visiting an event at the Herrick Library.



Jaycie Kazmierczak (First grade) and her brother, Jacob (Fourth grade) completing Challenge Boards.



Madelyn Kohler (WHS Freshman) a Kindland poem winner.



Nadia Greer (WHS Senior) a Kindland essay winner.

H.E.A.R.T. UPDATE



H.E.A.R.T. Spreads to the Village

Communicate with H.E.A.R.T., the district's customer experience platform, is gearing up for the new school year with plans to complete an online refresher for those who participated in the initial training sessions two years ago.

The goal is to adopt the H.E.A.R.T. principles into the district's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative. An additional direction is moving H.E.A.R.T. to targeted locations in the Village of Wellington as a community service. Discussions are underway to train managers and employees at the BP Station on South Main St., and its adjoining Taco Bell restaurant.

Initial training was completed in August with plans to accommodate rotating schedules by training small groups of employees on alternating mornings. The program is an evidence-based compassionate communications training devised by the Cleveland Clinic to improve its patient experience. Last school year, the first H.E.A.R.T. awards were presented to WHS guidance counselor Claire Frantz and MMS Dean of Climate and Culture, Nathan Morris. Parents expressed their positive experiences with Mrs. Frantz and Mr. Morris by completing the H.E.A.R.T. survey on the school's website.

Early in the new school year, H.E.A.R.T. Awards will be presented to a pair of employees recognized by fellow colleagues for demonstrating either the S.T.A.R.T. with H.E.A.R.T. engagement practice, or the service recovery Respond with H.E.A.R.T. behavior.

Please take the H.E.A.R.T. satisfaction survey to let us know how we're doing!

H.E.A.R.T. SURVEY

The Vannatter sisters (L-R) Gwen, Stella, and Lauren share what they are thankful for on Wellington's Kindland Gratitude Board.

This photo is from the Back to School Bash in August.



WELCOME, NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

High School Staff



McCormick Staff

Welcome:
John Sizer, MMS Cafeteria Monitor



WELCOME, NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Westwood Staff



Welcome:
Tanya Gallion, Cafeteria Monitor
Jill Westfall, Head Cleaner
Sarah Gardner, Classroom
 Paraprofessional

The Cares Closet at McCormick is looking for
 the following donations for students:

- Deodorant (womens and mens)
- Toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste
- Travel size body wash
- Travel size shampoo/conditioner

Donations can be brought to the
 MMS main office during school hours.
 Thank you!

WELLNESS NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

Wellington Continues to be the rural pilot school district for the Ohio Handle with Care Program (HWC) for the 2023-2024 school year. Ohio Handle With Care is a trauma-informed, cross-systems, collaborative program aimed at ensuring that children who are exposed to adverse events receive appropriate interventions and have opportunities to build resilience through positive relationships with teachers and first responders. Ohio HWC aims to promote safe and supportive schools, homes and communities that protect children, and communities that help traumatized children heal and thrive.



Applewood Centers will be offering School-Based Counseling services district wide for this school year. We are extremely excited to welcome Meg Tycast who will be in the district full time servicing students and families. If you are interested in referring your child to applewood school-based services, please contact your building school counselors, or district social worker Emily Medves at emedves@wellingtonvillageschools.org, (440) 647-7901. [You can fill out a form here.](#)

Westwood students will start the year off with weekly social emotional learning lessons through the Second Step curriculum. Lessons focus on topics such as goal-setting, emotion management, empathy and kindness and problem-solving. Students in need of more support have the opportunity to engage in one-on-one skill building, social skills groups, self-management, classroom support. Westwood students will be engaging in classroom PBIS lessons throughout the year. PBIS is a research-based framework for teaching and supporting positive behaviors for ALL students. The school-wide approach to discipline focuses on building a safe, positive environment where all students can learn. Therefore, students are taught the behaviors we expect to see, reminded to use them, and acknowledged when used.

Westwood students have the opportunity to be rewarded with PRIDE tickets and praised for excellent behavior and the ability to follow our school expectations. A monthly reward assembly will be held to recognize both the class and grade level that have earned the most PRIDE tickets. Students also receive "RED" PRIDE tickets individually, which can earn them a chance to get their name called on the morning announcements and a prize from the PBIS prize box. Westwood has been recognized with a Bronze Award by the Ohio PBIS network and the State Support Team for implementation of school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports.

McCormick Middle School kicked off the year with a PBIS assembly on the first day of school. Kids met in the Lindley Center to learn about PBIS and our Duke pride matrix. Students did classroom lessons of Pride during the first few weeks of school to highlight expectations during the school year. McCormick Middle School 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.

WELLNESS NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



Welcome Back!



SPECIALIST IS MY NAME, BEHAVIOR IS THE GAME!

Welcome to another year! For those of you that don't know me I am Katie O'Connor. I am the behavior specialist for Wellington. I have my masters in Applied Behavioral Analysis and have been working in the field for 9 years. This will be my second year here in Wellington!



FUN FACTS

- ✓ I LOVE dogs! I have spent years volunteering at a local shelter and have a sweet pup of my own!
- ✓ I am an avid Buffalo Bills fan. GO BILLS!
- ✓ I have lived in Ohio for 8 years.

INFO

Office
Student Services center
at McCormick

Office Phone

ex: 7903

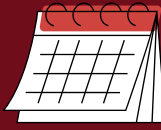
Email


Wellington:
koconnor@wellingtonvillageschools.org

Medina ESC:
koconnorAmedinaesc.org




DISTRICT CALENDAR





Wellington Exempted Village School District

2023-2024 Academic Calendar



July 2023						January 2024					
M	Tu	W	Tr	F		M	Tu	W	Tr	F	
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	5	
10	11	12	13	14		8	9	10	11	12	
17	18	19	20	21		15	16	17	18	19	
24	25	26	27	28		22	23	24	25	26	
31						29	30	31			

August 2023						February 2024					
M	Tu	W	Tr	F		M	Tu	W	Tr	F	
	1	2	3	4					1	2	
7	8	9	10	11							
14	15	16	17	18		5	6	7	8	9	
21	22	23	24	25		12	13	14	15	16	
28	29	30	31			19	20	21	22	23	
						26	27	28	29		

September 2023						March 2024					
M	Tu	W	Tr	F		M	Tu	W	Tr	F	
				1						1	
4	5	6	7	8		4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15		11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22		18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29		25	26	27	28	29	

October 2023						April 2024					
M	Tu	W	Tr	F		M	Tu	W	Tr	F	
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	
9	10	11	12	13		8	9	10	11	12	
16	17	18	19	20		15	16	17	18	19	
23	24	25	26	27		22	23	24	25	26	
30	31					29	30				

November 2023						May 2024					
M	Tu	W	Tr	F		M	Tu	W	Tr	F	
		1	2	3				1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10		6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17		13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24		20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30			27	28	29	30	31	

December 2023						June 2024					
M	Tu	W	Tr	F		M	Tu	W	Tr	F	
				1							
	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	
	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	
	18	19	20	21	22	17	18	19	20	21	
	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28	

School Hours

Westwood Elementary

8:00am - 2:45pm

McCormick Middle School

8:00am - 3:00pm

Wellington High School

8:00am - 3:00pm

Grading Periods

Quarter 1 - Aug. 30 - Oct. 27 = 42 days

Quarter 2 - Oct. 30 - Jan. 19 = 47 days - Semester One = 89 days

Quarter 3 - Jan. 22 - March 22 = 43 days

Quarter 4 - March 25 - May 30 = 41 days - Semester Two = 84 days

Total: 173 days

Board Approved 3-21-2023

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL PICS!



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