



Panther Pause



TWIN VALLEY COMMUNITY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER – Mr. Robert Fischer



As we hear more about the state report card, I would like to point out some information in order to allow each individual the opportunity to hear some facts directly from the school.

While the staff and administration is not pleased with its current report card status for the Twin Valley Community Local School District, we want to make sure our community understands that we are continually working and making strides to develop the WHOLE child on each and every level. As a District, we are working to ensure that our staff can address the current and continual changes being sent down by the Ohio Department of Education. We are vigilant that each decision being made at Twin Valley South keeps in focus the day to day issues that our families and students confront in today's ever changing society.

Regarding the tests and the report cards...In 2014, schools across Ohio were mandated to move from the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT- 9-12) and the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA 3-8) to the PARCC and AIR Assessments for students in grades 3-12. For unknown reasons, our elected legislators felt too many schools were being successful and decided to make a change. These moves were made with insufficient staff training and sparse information distributed to the schools prior to the new testing formats starting in March of 2015. The format of these new tests created many challenges for our students due to an unfamiliar testing format, testing frequency, and the simple fact that many of the students had not had the opportunity to learn the skills needed as a result of the introduction of new curriculum (The Common Core/Ohio Learning Standards). In a normal educational testing format, best practice should be to begin the new curriculum in kindergarten and allow the students to work their way up through each grade level. Unfortunately, this was not the opportunity our students were provided in the state of Ohio.

Since the spring of 2015, students have had to adjust to multiple testing formats: PARCC, AIR, Online Tests, Paper Tests, Performance Assessments, and End of Course Assessments. In addition, the staff did not have the opportunity to know exactly what skills students individually lacked on each tested section due to data not being sent to the schools in a timely fashion. After the 2015 "testing season", schools were not even made aware of their "graded" status until January of 2016. Furthermore, during the fall of 2017, schools were given certain data points based on some of the tests in order to give our staff an opportunity to prepare the students to be successful. However, we are still missing complete data from various tests given during the 16-17 school year. Prior to the 2015 testing cycle, schools were regularly given the opportunity to receive OGT and OAA data on each student that supported insufficient learning for individual students. With that data, the administration and staff were able to take proper steps to help our students grow and learn based on the current learning standards at that time.

As recent as the 2015-2016 school year, Twin Valley Community Local Schools was rated as an "excellent" school system by the Ohio Department of Education. Twin Valley Community Local Schools was awarded this honor because of the work that staff invested and because we had the knowledge to prepare our students. However, much like today, that was not always the case. It took time and dedication by our staff and students to make progress and move the district forward.

Per the Ohio Department of Education, here is some real data that looks at the current statewide statistics for the 2016-2017 testing (http://education.ohio.gov/lists_and_rankings): Approximately 494 (81%) out of 608 public school districts received an "F" on indicators met. This number refers to the passage of tests by students. Furthermore, out of 608 public schools in the state of Ohio, approximately 330 (54%) schools received a "C" on their performance index. Ironically, only 6 schools in the state of Ohio received an "A" rating for performance index. The performance index is an indicator of how the students achieve on each assessment. Additionally, the data is clear that the performance of the schools is strongly based on the economics of that community. The top 30 "performing" schools in the state of Ohio have an average district income of \$119,429 and the average District Poverty Rate is 8% or less. The bottom 30 "performing" schools in the state of Ohio have an average income of \$36,668 and a poverty level of 87% or higher. TVS currently has a 45.5% poverty level, and we received an overall rating of "C" on our performance index. Regarding the ACT, Twin Valley South's Class of 2017, earned a 23.4 composite average for the 2016-2017 school year; the state average/remediation free mark is 22.0. During the last five years our 5-year trend continues to make strides in comparison to our 2013 composite average of 21.4.

Since the new testing format was implemented, TVS continues to make progress on the testing cycle. As students move from grade level to grade level, we continue to see progress and passage on the tests we currently face. Unfortunately, the State continues to change the expectations, and in the 2017-2018 testing year our students will once again face testing challenges and changes. Students will no longer need to take assessments in fourth and six grade social studies, and we anticipate additional tests being



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TREASURER'S CORNER – Mrs. Tearalee Riddlebarger



I would like to thank the community for their support of the district, students, and staff. The district administration and staff appreciate everyone understanding the needs of the district and voting yes to the Permanent Improvement Levy in March 2016. The school was able to co-fund the roofing project with the OFCC to replace the school district's entire roof. We are still exploring other avenues that can be used to update the doors and windows. The roof was the highest priority as it will protect the building the community paid to have built with the bond that just expired in 2016. The completion of the project will provide at least another 20 years of useful life for the roof.

Additionally, I wrote about the Current Agricultural Use Values (CAUV) in the spring newsletter but I want to address the issue again as the community will likely see the effect on their tax bills early 2018. The state of Ohio passed legislation that reduced CAUV. Due to this change, tax bills for those citizens who do not have agricultural land could show an increase. The district wants to make taxpayers aware that any possible increase was not due to the addition of new levies, taxes or bonds. This proposed increase will be a result of needing to meet the generated amount previously voted by the community. Our goal is to make sure we keep our citizens informed and want to be as forthcoming as possible. If at any point you have **ANY** questions, please feel free to reach out to either the county auditor's office or the TVS district office.

PUPIL SERVICES Mr. Daniel Lewis



I would like to share information about the Intervention Assistance Team (IAT) process as a starting point to getting additional support for students.

The team collects information and progress data on students in order to suggest a plan of strategies and structures that could help the student in the general curriculum. The classroom teachers then implement those strategies and structures into their classroom planning. The team periodically reviews the plan to see if revisions are needed.

The IAT process is an important planning piece for students that may move on to formal testing under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The IAT process allows for the collection of important data that would be included in a potential Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

If you would like more information on the IAT process or other educational planning offered by the district, please contact the classroom teacher, the Guidance Office, or the Office of Pupil Services.

TRANSPORTATION & MAINTENANCE Mr. Jeff Tully



The 2017-2018 school year is off to a very busy start. Our biggest project has been replacing the 22 year old roof which got underway in late July. The roofers have been hard at work and hope to have it completed before winter officially starts. In addition to the roof, we have been able to use donated funds to:

- Redo the HS/ES gym floors which have not been done since the school was built.
- Replace and add an additional scoreboard in the ES gym.
- Added new scoreboards at the baseball and softball fields.

To tie in the school districts history we have added some fresh paint, Lanier Tiger red and white in the Elementary, West Alexandria Bulldog blue in the Middle School, and TVS Panther red and gray in the High School. This will also help in emergency situations for building identification.

Transportation has been a challenge due to the road closures that have taken place during the fall. We had to add a route to enable the students north of the St. Rte. 503 bridge to be picked up without an excessively long transport. The bridge should be open soon allowing us to return to our regular routing. I would like to thank the parents and students for their understanding and patience and the bus drivers for their flexibility. Early in September, we held Kindergarten through Third grade bus safety training, with the assistance of Connie Wysong, the training went really well. Each year the training is an important part of making sure the students understand bus safety.

Finally, as a result of our positive budget saving trends, the School District was able to purchase another new bus improving safety and cutting down on maintenance. Over the past three years, the District has been able to add new five buses to our current fleet. Finally, we would like to welcome Lori Million to the TVS staff as our newest bus driver.



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER - *Continued from page 1* -

dropped in future years. It's hard to hit a target when the target continually moves. Fact in case, in order to receive a passing on the assessments in 2015, based on each of the various tests, schools needed to have anywhere from 51% to 89% of the students be proficient depending on the test. The rationale for this number inconsistency was a result of poor planning, in my opinion, by the state and the lack of an opportunity for schools to properly prepare. Even with the number inconsistency in 2015, during each of the next two years the indicator percentage for passing continued to move with the climax being in the 2016-2017 testing season where schools needed an 80% student passage on each assessment to earn the mark. While this number is not a difficult mark to approach, without the needed tools and previous skills, students may continue to struggle until the learning catches up with the required standards. Finally, looking at the progress over the past two years, for the 2016-2017 school year, TVS was at or above the state average on 15 of the 23 state indicators in comparison to the 2015-2016 school year where TVS was at or above the state average on 13 of the 23 current state indicators (<http://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx>). Ultimately, and our previous track record will verify this, Twin Valley South is and will continue to make strides as long as the target stays the same.

After reading this information, please do not solely judge the school system on tests that we have not had the opportunity to perfect or properly prepare. Each day at Twin Valley South we are looking to find ways to meet the needs of our children. During the 2017-2018 school year our staff members have been introduced to professional development such as the "Kid Whisperer" by Scott Ervin and in November we will introduce "Trauma Informed Care" in order to allow us to better understand our students. We continue to add programs such as mental health counseling and the Success Program to help reach our students. At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, we offered a survey to our parents and students to take a look at our perception and what we need to do to keep pushing and improving. Together, we will work to prepare students for the future and ensure that they graduate with the skills necessary to be successful in life. Change is a process that takes time to effectively be established in order to make sure it lasts. Over the course of the past several years, Twin Valley South continues to make strides on being fiscally responsible as well as looking at ways to improve instruction for students.

I encourage anyone who has questions or concerns about any of the information in this email/post to contact the office at 937-839-4688. I would be more than happy to further discuss these findings and share with you the vision of how WE are going to continue to push the Twin Valley Community Local Schools forward!

Every Student....Every Family....Every Teacher....Every Day!

FOOD SERVICE – Mrs. Megan Fields



The Food Service Department's goal is to "enrich and nourish lives." The Food Service staff is comprised of the Food Service Manager, Megan Fields, the head cook and several cooks/cashiers. These ladies work hard to keep Twin Valley students happy and fed!

There are many new additions to our cafeteria. The Food Service Department teamed up with Galactic Ice to provide 100% fruit juice slushies for our Middle and High School students. We also look forward to teaming up with the Hershey's Company and Pepsi to continue providing snacks that our students love!

We have added tasty and nutritious pizza made from fresh dough for our High School students, introducing "Pizza Friday's" to the menu! Here we have various popular recipes that will not only please your tummies, but move your heart for more learning!

Free and reduced applications may be filed at any time during the school year. The application covers both breakfast and lunch and is available in the school offices or on the District web page.

As a benefit to students that qualify for reduced meals, breakfast is served at NO COST. This is a \$0.30 per day savings! This cost is not reimbursed to the district by the state or federal government, it is a cost picked up by the food service department.

Students that qualify for free meals also qualify for a school fee waiver. The school fee waiver section must be signed in order to receive this benefit. The fee is not reimbursed to the district by the state or federal government.

Check out the Food Service web-page for monthly menus, 2017-2018 price list, and a link to MySchoolBucks.com our on-line payment service. Please note there is a fee for on-line payments (paid to a third party, not the school). You may use the site for free if you just want to check your child's account balance or view his/her transactions.

Students with special dietary needs should consult with our school nurse, Mrs. Unger. Food service will work with the nurse to modify breakfast and lunch menus based on written orders from the student's family physician.

Sack lunches are available for any student participating in a class field trip. Two day notice is appreciated. Please call the food service office, or send a written request with your child.

The Food Service Department provides work experience for students enrolled in the Preble County Work-Study Program. Students assist with serving, dishwashing and custodial tasks. Students are paid a nominal hourly wage and receive course credit based on their hours of employment each semester.



WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

TVS would like to welcome the newest members of the TVS certified staff! Please be sure to say hello when you see them.



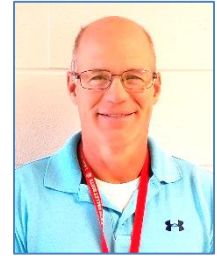
Jenny Beisner
Mental Health Counselor



Nathan Clark
HS Social Studies



Amy Miller
HS Physical Science



Randy Titkemeyer
ES Intervention Specialist

SOUTH STRONG – PANTHER PROUD



TVS REACHING OUT & KEEPING IN TOUCH

Need more information about Twin Valley South? You can find us on any of the following...

Facebook:
Twin Valley Community Local School District

Twitter: @Superintend1Tvs – Mr. Fischer, Superintendent
@TVS_Athletics – TVS Athletics

Website: tvs.k12.oh.us

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL Mr. Scott Cottingham, 7-12 Principal



The 2017-2018 School year has gotten off to a great start. It seems difficult to imagine that we will be having our first semester exams the week prior to Christmas break.

As is the case with all of our students, I would encourage the freshmen to be involved with their school. From clubs, to music, to athletics, there is something here for everyone if they simply look. During the course of this school year, we plan to add a few new clubs as well. Studies have shown that the more involved students are, the more likely that they will have a successful high school experience.

The High School and Middle School are excited to welcome two new members to the TVS teaching staff, Mr. Nathan Clark, Social Studies, and Mrs. Amy Miller, Science.

The Middle School students are busy raising funds for the annual Washington DC trip. Led by Mr. Shockey, they have been conducting fundraisers to offset the costs of the trip. This year's trip is scheduled to depart on the evening of March 26th and return March 29th.

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, Twin Valley South High School inducted twelve new members into the National Honor Society. These students were selected based on their overall grade point average and service to school and community. Inducted were: Madison Blair, William Bowman, Thane Class, Kinsey Crowe, Chase Denlinger, Brooklynn Harrod, Hayden Howard, Travis Lovely, Bryant Marker, Nathan Osborn, Abigail Robertson and Erin Tebbe.

In an effort to reduce bullying and misuses of social media we held a presentation in the auditorium for grades 6-12 on Tuesday, November 7th. Stephen Smith presented on the consequences of student sexting, cyber-bullying, and the impact on one's mental health. He also provided an overview of the technologies that enable as well as reduce these practices.

The Fifteenth Annual High School Talent Show, coordinated by Mrs. Robin Judd, will be held November 17th where acts by students and staff will showcase their talents. Canned food donations will be collected for the talent show admission and those donations will go to the West Alexandria food bank.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Patti Holly, K-6 Principal



These last few months have been busy ones here at the TVS Elementary School. Our staff has been attending after school professional development presented by Scott Irvin, the kid whisperer, once a month. His focus is on teaching calm and assertive procedures to elicit positive behaviors from students in order to create a more positive school environment.

School wide students are working together to ensure that all students feel welcome and safe by participating in a bullying program the month of November. We'll be focusing on how to recognize bullying, how to refuse to be bullied, how to report bullying, as well as other related information. It is a topic we plan to revisit throughout the year.

The PTO has been very active this year with the Fun Run, Scholastic Book Fair, and planning activities for students that will take place later in the year.

Thanksgiving is still a few weeks away, but I'd like to share what I'm thankful for here at Twin Valley South Elementary:

- Teachers and support staff who work tirelessly to find ways to reach every student.
- Students who come to school ready and willing to learn.
- Parents who provide support, care, limits, structures, and most of all, love for their children.
- Volunteers who give freely their time to help both teachers and students.

The Twin Valley South Elementary staff and I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season.



TECHNOLOGY CORNER – Mr. Derrick Myers



This year has shaped up to be the busiest yet for technology. Each year there are more devices, more online services, and more students and teachers ready to incorporate them. This summer we were able to continue our push towards a 1:1 student to computer ratio. We deployed 4 Chromebook Carts with 30 devices each for the High School.

Safety continues to be an important theme and as a result we have replaced our antiquated analog camera system with high resolution IP cameras which more than doubled our camera coverage. We continue to emphasize communication through social media, email, onecall, and our website. If you are a parent not currently getting email updates, please subscribe under the Parent menu at tvs.k12.oh.us. Please drop me an email with any technology concerns or questions!

PANTHER PAUSE
Twin Valley Community Local Schools
100 Education Drive
West Alexandria, Ohio 45381-1184



POSTAL CUSTOMER
West Alexandria, Ohio 45381

MISSION STATEMENT of Twin Valley Community Local School District

“...is to provide a safe learning environment where all children are challenged to achieve their maximum potential, based on individual needs and abilities, utilizing a team effort among parents, educators, staff, and community.”

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mike Randolph
President

Jason DeLong
Vice President

Tim Beneke
Member


Sean Maggard
Member

Jim Pemberton
Member

Mark Your Calendars


November

- Nov 13-17 – Hunger/Homeless Awareness Week
- Nov 14 – 1st grade Music Program
- Nov 16 – 2nd & 3rd grade Music Programs
- Nov 20 – Staff Professional Development
- Nov 20-24 – TVS Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 22-24 – CTC Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 28 – FFA Chapter Fun Night




December

- Dec 16 – Science Fair
- Dec 16 – HS Winter Dance
- Dec 18 – Winter Band/Choir Concert
- Dec 21-Jan 3 – CTC Winter Break
- Dec 22 – 1 hr. Delay – Staff Appreciation
- Dec 25 - Jan 5 – TVS Winter Break



January

- Jan 8 – Classes Resume
- Jan 15 – No School - MLK Day
- Jan 18 – Preble County Spelling Bee
- Jan 20 – Preble County Science Fair
- Jan 29 – No Students (Prof. Dev.)




February

- Feb 10 – FFA Basketball Tournament
- Feb 13/15 – Parent/Teacher Conference
- Feb 16 – No School
- Feb 19 – No School – Presidents Day
- Feb 19-23 – National FFA Week



March

- Mar 16 – CTC No School
- Mar 26-29 – 8th grade Washington D.C.
- Mar 30 – CTC No School
- Mar 30 - TVS No School – Teacher PD



April

- Apr 2 – CTC No School
- Apr 2-6 – TVS Spring Break
- Apr 14 – TVS Prom
- Apr 24 – Senior Citizen Banquet

