



School Update

A Publication of St. Henry Consolidated Local School District
Vol. XXXVI No.2 October/November 2021

Smoke Signals

Mrs. Julie Garke, Superintendent



Students were welcomed back to school on August 24. Thank you parents, students and staff for an excellent start to the school year. It seemed that right when school was set to return, an uncertainty with the resurgence of the pandemic consumed the media. As we continue to crave normalcy, be reassured that the goal at St. Henry Schools remains the same - having a safe and productive school year for all students.

COVID-19 Update

To achieve our goals, St. Henry Schools relies on the community for support to make a positive, productive year. Doing daily health assessments of your child before s/he comes to school is beneficial to stop the spread of illness. Symptoms may include, but are not limited to: new cough, severe headache or sore throat, vomiting/diarrhea, new loss of taste/smell, or shortness of breath. Also, keeping your child home if a household member is experiencing signs of COVID-19 will allow for our staff and students to remain healthy.

The Mercer County Health District has given the following recommendations to schools:

Confirmed Case of Covid-19: Isolate at home for at least 10 days. Do not return to school until symptoms are gone.

Unmasked Close Contact: Monitor symptoms for 14 days, maintain social distance from others, and wear a mask when around other people. If there are symptoms, immediately self-isolate and consult your primary care physician. Quarantine: 10 days stay at home without testing (return if you remain symptom free) OR 7 day stay at home – only after receiving a negative test on day 5 or later and remain symptom free.

Masked Close Contact: Does not need to quarantine but needs to monitor symptoms for 14 days. If symptoms develop, students should isolate and consider testing. The Mercer County Health District is reporting a much higher rate of confirmed cases for school aged children as compared to last year at this time. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this.

USDA COVID-19 FREE LUNCH

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) passed a waiver providing schools with funds from the Federal Government to feed ALL students in grades K-12 at no charge this school year. The purpose of this federal program is to minimize the challenges of meal service during a pandemic. The funds to supply these free meals are being provided by the Federal Government through the USDA. There will not be any local district funds used to support this program.

In order to receive this free meal, a complete lunch must be purchased. Any items purchased as extras or a la carte will still be charged to the student's lunch account balance. Please monitor your child's lunch money balance to ensure s/he remains at a positive balance.

Teacher Inservice Day – Oct. 11

On Monday, October 11th, all teachers in Mercer and Auglaize Counties will gather virtually for a Professional Learning Conference. There will be no in-person classes this day.

School Update

St. Henry Consolidated Local Schools
www.sthenryschools.org

The School Update is published five times yearly by the school district and is distributed by bulk mail to all residents of the district.

*Eric Rosenbeck, Editor
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Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for November 1, 2 and 4. School will not be in session on Friday, November 5. Parents will be receiving a notification from the building your child attends regarding conferences this year.

School Bus Safety Week

Bus Safety Week this year is October 18-22. The theme for 2021 is **“1 Bus + 1 Driver = a BIG impact on Education.”** National School Bus Safety Week is a unique reminder to motorists and students about the dangers that exist outside the school bus. Thank you to all of our bus drivers and motorists for being aware of their surroundings and assisting in getting all of our students to and from school safely.

Count Week for Transportation

If your child(ren) are assigned to a bus route, we request that you make all efforts to have them ride the bus Oct. 4 – 8. This is “count week” for bus riders and helps determine our funding for transportation. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

Enclosed in the newsletter is a copy of the nomination form for potential candidates for the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Please take the time to honor an alumnus from the St. Henry School system including any previous graduates from Burkettsville High School. Nominations will be accepted until Wednesday, November 24, 2021. Nomination forms can also be found on the school website under Forms. Inductees will be honored at the January 29th home basketball game. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Ranly at 419-678-4834 ext. 2101.

Go Skins!

Julie Larke

From the Board of Education

Mr. Brad Nerderman

It is hard to believe that a new school year is in full swing, and the calendar year is coming to an end. This year, like the last, has presented new challenges. Many of the challenges faced, we have adapted to and overcome. A sense of normalcy has started to creep back into our lives. Soon the time will change, along with the weather, making it easy to fall into a lull. Reflecting on this reminded me of an article I read recently.

Over the summer, I had the opportunity to read an article about a high school English teacher from Upper Arlington named Dr. James Allen. Dr. Allen was known for constantly challenging and tasking his students to think critically. One day when students arrived to his classroom, he posed this question to them, “What if the best version of you is being held captive by a mediocre coward masquerading as you?” While continuing to try and read on in the article, I kept

circling back to that question. I couldn’t help but try and relate the question to my life, the school district, and our community.

Now, obviously, I realize that each person believes they have a “best version” of themselves. What took longer to understand is who is this mediocre coward holding people captive, denying them from being the best they can be. I tried to think of an example. Once I thought of one example, I began to think of many more. The mediocre coward is that person who leaves a shopping cart sitting in a parking lot, instead of putting it back. The co-worker who does just enough but is never willing to put in the overtime. They are the C students who brag about coasting through classes when they could be earning A’s. Laziness, surrender, average, and complacency were all words that came rushing into my mind. At that moment I realized that Dr. Allen’s question had completed its mission and had challenged me to think critically.

Now I challenge all of you. I challenge everyone to re-read Dr. Allen’s question and think about what is holding you back from being your best selves. This school year strive to excel, instead of settling for mediocrity. Become that A student or go-to employee. Don’t just check the box, break it!

Stay Safe and Go Skins!

**TWO THINGS YOU
ARE IN TOTAL
CONTROL OF IN
YOUR LIFE ARE
YOUR ATTITUDE &
YOUR EFFORT**

The financial statements of St. Henry Consolidated Local School District for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, have been completed and are available for inspection at the office of the Treasurer/CFO. A copy of the financial report may be reviewed at the office during regular school hours.

BASKETBALL SEASON TICKETS

Basketball season tickets will be on sale Monday, November 8, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the High School Commons. Exchange of seats and new tickets will be sold on November 15 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Ticket holders will have the same seats they had in 2019. The selling of tickets is subject to change if necessary.



From the Elementary School

PRESCHOOL SCREENING

Mrs. Albers

Preschool screenings (Child Find) will be held at the Mercer County Educational Service Center on September 24, November 19, January 21, March 4, and June 2. If you have any concerns about your child (ages 3-5) in the areas of speech/language, pre-academics, hearing, vision, or motor development, please call Janice Diller at the Mercer County ESC (419-586-6628) to schedule an appointment.

PTO

Mrs. Alexander

Walk-A-Thon

The PTO Walk-A-Thon was held on Friday, September 17th, for students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade. Students collected pledges for two weeks prior to the event. On the day of the event, grade levels took turns heading out to the track to walk or run laps, which were recorded with tallies. The day was a huge success! The weather was perfect and the students had a lot of FUN!! A spirit trophy was awarded to the grade level showing the most "spirit" the day of the event. This year's spirit award went to the fourth grade students!! Great job to all of the students for working so hard collecting pledges and **THANK YOU to all the volunteers** who made the day so successful! A special thanks to Lori Schmackers for taking pictures the entire day. We can't wait until next year's Walk-A-Thon!

Family Fun Night

This year's PTO Family Fun Night was held on Thursday, August 19th, at the St. Henry Freedom amphitheater. Students and their families were able to enjoy the movie *Luca*. We would like to thank everyone who came out to enjoy the show!

PTO Spirit Sale

Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information on our PTO Spirit Sale. We will be running this sale through Homestretch Sportswear. There is something for everyone on your Christmas list!

Events Coming Up

Grandparent Bingo for grades kindergarten and first will be on November 9th. (There will be a spring date for grades 2-4).

Stuff the stocking event for teacher gifts will be done through Amazon this year, more information to come.

SUPPORT THE ST. HENRY PTO AS YOU SHOP!!

AMAZON:

Simply visit smile.amazon.com and search St. Henry PTO. Select our organization and start shopping!! Or you can use the direct link to our organization; smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1845045.

You will receive all of the same deals and shipping rates as Amazon.com! Amazon will donate a portion of your payment to the PTO. You must always use smile.amazon.com in order for the donations to be sent to us. If you use the normal www.amazon.com, no donations will be sent. Always start at smile.amazon.com!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ST. HENRY PTO!!!



From the High School

Juniors and Parents/Guardians of Juniors

Mr. Eric Rosenbeck

The sixth statewide administration of the college and career readiness test will be in the spring of 2022. Districts can choose only one of these tests to be given. St. Henry has elected to administer the ACT; this is the test that the majority of our students take for college admission. This ACT test is planned to be given on March 29, 2022. This ACT test is FREE to all juniors. Students will be able to use the test results to send to colleges/universities of their choosing for admission purposes. This particular test does not include the writing portion nor is the writing portion an option. Only juniors will be eligible to take the FREE test during the testing window.

If you would like additional information, please visit the Ohio Department of Education website and search "ACT Test."



FREE TUTORING

Do Good Restaurant and Ministry in Osgood is once again offering FREE tutoring services for K-12 students from the four county service area: Auglaize, Darke, Mercer and Shelby. Their goal is to help parents who are unable to afford private tutoring or who are simply looking for tutoring service. Tutors have been screened and evaluated to ensure students' safety and true assistance. Please contact Do Good Ministries in Osgood if you have any questions, comments or concerns about this program. They will gladly assist you in trying to set up tutoring that can possibly help your child.

Homecoming 2021

The 2021 Homecoming Crowning took place on September 24 at the Wally Post Athletic Complex and the Homecoming Dance on September 25.

The following represented their classes:

Freshmen: Robert Howe, Sara Hemmelgarn

Sophomores: Josh Rindler, Natalie Goewert

Juniors: Tyler Schwieterman, Ara Nerderman

Seniors: Mark Knapke, Martin De Vicente Marquez, Nolan Siefing, Marta Guerrero Fernandez De Luz, Abby King, Dana Rindler

Congratulations to the 2021 King and Queen, Mark Knapke (son of Steve and Vicki Knapke) and Dana Rindler (daughter of Randy and Barbara Rindler)!

SHHS Student Council Holds Powder Puff Event

Due to the rain, the annual Powder Puff football event was changed to a volleyball event where the "spooky," Halloween-themed seniors took on the "jolly", Christmas-themed juniors. It was a competitive event and in the end the seniors took the victory in two sets. The event raised \$2,000 for the Annalyn Liette family. Thank you to the community for supporting this cause.

HS Guidance Office

Mrs. Julie Overman

It has been a great start to the school year! The staff and students have been very welcoming, and I can't thank you all enough! I am very excited to continue to get to know the students and have a great year with them!

This is a very busy time of year, especially for the seniors who are in the middle of making decisions for the next step after high school. I have met with all the seniors in an individual meeting to discuss graduation requirements and future plans. It is my goal to support them and help them be successful in whatever pathway they choose.

The Financial Aid Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 15th, where Melanie Weaver explained the financial options and steps for those students looking to further their education. She discussed the FAFSA process, financial award options, and much more. For details of the information that was provided at this meeting, please go to Redskin Counseling Corner, College, and locate Financial Aid. If you have any further questions in this process, please feel free to reach out, and I will be more than happy to help!

Senior parents, if you haven't completed the parent brag sheet about your son or daughter, it isn't too late to turn it in. Please feel free to email them to me at your convenience or send them with your child to school. It is a great way to get to know the students from the parents' eyes. This brag sheet helps the staff write letters of recommendations or be a reference for college applications and job opportunities. We all greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete these.

I am currently meeting with the juniors, then sophomores and freshmen will follow, to create a plan for things students should be thinking about and answer any questions they may have. Please feel free to visit Redskin Counseling Corner where parents and students can find up to date information on Graduation Requirements, College Credit Plus, College Visits, Scholarships, Financial Aid, Testing Dates, and Careers. This can be accessed by going to the St. Henry School Website. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me via phone call, email or appointment about your son or daughter.

Important Fall Dates:

October 1 – FAFSA (Federal Student Aid) applications open for the 2022-2023 year. Senior families, it is best practice to fill these applications out sooner rather than later. Please see the step by step links on the financial aid tab of Redskin Counseling Corner.

October 5 – 9th Grade Tri Star Tours will be held. Students will be receiving more information on this closer to the field trip.

October 15 – Van Wright from Bowling Green State University will talk to the juniors about their future plans and how to prepare for them, no matter their pathway after high school.

October 25 – Rhodes State College Credit Plus students will register for their spring classes.

November 9 – Sophomores will have a Tri Star Presentation at St. Henry.

SHEA Food Fair Fundraiser

Due to the shortage and delays of food supply from Gordon Food Services, it has been suggested that we postpone our annual Fall Food Fair. We will reconsider and hope to hold a Food Fair in the spring. The money we raise is for scholarships to be awarded to our deserving St. Henry students. Please check back in early spring!

Choir Pie Sales

Members of the High School Choir will be selling pies and other baked goods from The Bake Shoppe starting on October 14 and ending on November 1, 2021. The products will be delivered on Tuesday, November 23.



Please call 419-678-4834 extension 2436 for more information or to purchase the products.

THANK YOU!

News from the Bus Stop

Mrs. Sherri Ranly

This year we have our statewide count week from October 4-8. The school receives state funding for transportation by the number of students that ride the bus to school. Please encourage your children to ride the bus to school that week if they are assigned to a bus route.

Bus Safety Week this year is October 18-22. **"1 bus + 1 driver = a BIG impact on Education"** is the theme for 2021. National School Bus Safety Week is a unique reminder to motorists and students about the dangers that exist outside the school bus.

Nearly one million Ohio students ride on school buses each day and over 15,000 bus drivers are dedicated to providing safe transportation for children in the state. National studies show school buses are the safest method for transporting young people – up to 22 times safer than passenger cars. The bus drivers at St. Henry are constantly working to ensure the safety of the kids they transport and take pride in doing so. The drivers work diligently to ensure the safety of your children and ask that you assist in helping your children understand the rules.

For the safety of children, encourage your students to wear light colored clothing, especially when it is dark in the morning, when they get on the bus.

Just a reminder, please refrain from sending your child home on a bus that is not his/her regular scheduled route. Our buses are very full and cannot always accommodate extra children. Thank You!

REMINDER:

If attending any type of activity at the Middle/High School, we request you not park on Columbus St./Kenneth Dr. where the curb is painted yellow. This area is for the safety of the pedestrians crossing the street and the visibility of vehicles exiting the Middle/High School parking lot and Kenneth Dr. This is more of an issue during evening activities. Thank you!

~ The St. Henry Police Department

St. Henry Baseball - 2021-2022 Online Apparel Store

Mr. Mike Gast

The 2021-2022 St. Henry Baseball online apparel store will go live at the beginning of November and be open 2-3 weeks (closing around November 20). This order window will allow for items to be completed by early December, so that all may have items available for the holiday season. Players/Families will be able to pick up items at the St. Henry Elementary Gymnasium from 10 AM - 12 PM on Saturday, December 11. If other pickup arrangements are needed, please contact a St. Henry High School baseball player or Coach Gast (gast.mike@sthenryschools.org).



The online apparel store will be available through Albert Sporting Goods this year. Once the store is available, you will be able to find it under the "Team Stores" tab on their website, albertsportinggoods.com. In order to enter the store, you will need to enter a Sale Code - this code will be made available to us after the store has been completed. Please stay tuned for this code; once again, please reach out to a SHHS baseball player and/or Coach Gast (email above) if you'd like to be informed of this code when it is available. The link will also be made available on Twitter (from @SHmikegast).

ANNOUNCEMENT

ProgressBook App

We are excited to inform you that ProgressBook has released an app that will help track grades, view homework assignments, monitor attendance, and more.

Download the Mobile App

Go to the Apple App Store or Android Apps on Google Play and search "ProgressBook Parent/Student" to find the ProgressBook mobile app and download the app.

If You Already Have a ProgressBook Account

- 1.) Open the mobile app
- 2.) Tap Login
- 3.) When redirected to the website, begin typing "St Henry Consolidated Local SD"
- 4.) In the results list, select "St Henry Consolidated Local SD"
- 5.) Tap "Go"
- 6.) Tap "Sign In"
- 7.) Use your ProgressBook login credentials that you would use when logging into the web-site

For password reset, please contact Mrs. Julie Rose at:
[\(rose.julie@sthenryschools.org\)](mailto:rose.julie@sthenryschools.org)

Student Accounts - Parents/Guardians can set up individual accounts for their student(s) by using the following directions when logging into ProgressBook using a computer/chromebook. If you have already set up an individual account for your child, you can skip to step 6.

- 1.) Log into your account using your ProgressBook login and password
- 2.) On the left side of the screen select "My Account"
- 3.) Choose the student that you would like to create an account for and click the green "Create Account"
- 4.) Enter only the following information; Username - type your child's first and last name along with his/her graduation year (for example; austinkunk2027), Password - create a password that is unique to your child. Do not enter an email account for your child.
- 5.) Click the "Create" button.
- 6.) Your child can now download the app to his/her device and log in using the directions stated above.

If You Do Not Have a ProgressBook Account

- 1.) See the information that was sent home with your child at the beginning of the school year with registration key(s) and account setup.
- 2.) If you do not have this information, please contact Julie Rose (rose.julie@sthenryschools.org).



Chromebook Shortage

Chromebook replacement parts are in short supply and prices have gone up substantially. If you have a used Chromebook in your home that is no longer being used, please consider donating it (no matter the condition) and/or the charger to St. Henry Schools. We can often use them as loaners or for parts to repair our current fleet.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Rose Harrod at harrod.rose@sthenryschools.org.

Lunch Account Balances

Please monitor your child's lunch account balance on a regular basis. Low balance letters are sent out weekly for accounts with a balance under \$5.00. **Students with a negative balance over \$20.00 will not be able to purchase any extra items in the cafeteria.** As a reminder, all regular meals are free for the 2021-2022 school year. Lunch account balances and transaction history are available for review at www.payschoolscentral.com. Payments to lunch accounts can be made via check to St. Henry Schools or online through the PaySchoolsCentral website. **REMINDER:** write separate checks for students in grades K-4 and 5-12.

The Saint Henry High School Drama Club



Friday, November 19 at 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 20 at 7:00 PM

Sunday, November 21 at 2:00 PM

SHHS Commons ~ Adults \$9 ~ Students (K-12) \$6

**Tickets will be available in the High School office
from October 18 to November 19.**

**THERE ARE
NO
SHORTCUTS.
WORK HARD,
BE PATIENT,
CONSISTENT
AND NEVER
GIVE UP.**



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