

LICKING VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS

David Hile, Superintendent

FEBRUARY 2017

Volume 11, Issue 7

Attention 8th Grade Students and Parents

Class Scheduling for 2017 - 2018 **School Year**

February 2, 2017

HS counselors, Mrs. Garver and Mrs. Lichtenauer, will be in the 8th grade classrooms assisting students with their 2017-2018 high school class scheduling.

February 7, 2017

Parent Meeting for 8th grade parents @ 6:30 in the Middle School Cafeteria.

Mrs. Garver, and Mrs. Lichtenauer will introduce HS curriculum and answer any questions.

February 13, 2017

High School Counselors will be available at Parent/Teachers Conferences to answer any questions.



In addition to Leader School Closings Alert, you can find out about school closings on the following radio and television stations.

- Radio: WCLT T100 WHTH - 101.7
- TV: ABC 6/Fox 28 **WBNS 10** NBC 4

LICKING VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE 1379 Licking Valley Rd. NE Newark, OH 43055 740-763-3525 David Hile, Superintendent Jo Lynn Torbert, Treasurer

LICKING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

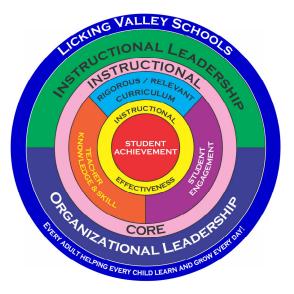
100 Hainsview Dr. NE Newark, OH 43055 740-763-3721 Wes Weaver, Principal Shane Adkins, Assistant Principal

LICKING VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL 1379 Licking Valley Rd. NE Newark, OH 43055 740-763-3396

LICKING VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1510 Licking Valley Rd. NE Newark, OH 43055

PRIMARY

740-763-2865 Todd Carmer, Principal Angela Harrison, Assistant Principal INTERMEDIATE 740-763-2031 Sherry Crum, Principal Angela Harrison, Assistant Principal



Lunch Charges

Because we never want to see any child go hungry Licking Valley Local Schools allows students to charge their lunch (we do not offer an alternate). The cafeteria does allow charging, but we would prefer that a student's account be prepaid or paid on the day of purchase. You can apply money online by going to www.EZPay.com, or you can send money to school with your child (ren).

We have set the following procedures in place to try to keep charges from going into the "Excessive Charge" range.

- When a child's account is in the negative \$2.00 (Primary), \$5.00 (Intermediate), or \$2.25 (Middle School) Leader Alerts are extracted from our NutriKids System and calls (e-mails) are sent once a week.
- Calls and e-mails are made by the Food Service Director, Jan Jennings, when an ac-٠ count reaches \$5 in charges.
- A letter is mailed (with a free/reduced application) when an account goes into the neg-٠ ative \$20 and is turned over to the Principal's office for collection.
- At \$40 the account is, once again, turned over to the Principal's office for collection. ۲
- When the account reaches \$60 in charges it is turned over to the District Office. ٠



(Leader Alerts are continuously being sent weekly during these steps)

When you receive a Leader Alert, please contact Jan Jennings (740) 763-2433 if you have questions. A "Call Result" report is sent following the Leader Alert. If a number is listed as "Disconnected" or "Other" the school secretary is contacted for verification of e-mail or telephone number. Please keep this information updated with your school secretary.

Free/Reduced application can be completed online by going to www.schoollunchapp.com or you can request a paper application be sent home with your child.



- Licking Valley Athletic schedules can be found at: http://lickingvalleyathletics.com
- The Licking Valley Board of Education meets the 2nd Monday of each month in the high school media center at 6:00 P.M.
- February 13, 2017 •
- February 14, 2017
- February 16, 2017 •
- February 17, 2017
- February 20, 2017
- March 7, 2017

- Intermediate Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **Primary Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- **Primary and Intermediate Parent/Teacher Conferences**
 - NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Exchange Day
- **NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day**
 - MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS CONCERT @ High School

March 27th - 31st



High School Musical April 21 & 22 7:30 pm

Tickets will go on sale March 15 \$8.00 Reserved Seating



The annual College Credit Plus informational meeting for parents is Monday, February 13 at 6:30 PM in the auditorium.



High School - February 23rd

Junior College Planning Night is Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 directly after conferences end. Mark your calendars!

5TH GRADE VENTURE YOUTH TO YOUTH CONFERENCE MARCH 4 & 5, 2017

Licking Valley Intermediate School

All 5th graders are invited!





The Venture Youth to Youth Conference is a weekend full of presentations, small group discussions and fun activities led by high school students and adults focused on helping the 5th grade students see their greatness and prepare for middle school. The conference uses the International Youth to Youth model with high school students as leaders. To get a feel for the conference you can view last year's closing slide show on YouTube at, "Licking Valley 2016 5th Grade Venture Youth to Youth Conference."

What kind of things will be discussed?

Making good choices Launching into your future Friendships and changes

Staying drug free and having fun Celebrating you, finding strengths

Reaching out and helping others

Specifics:

Where: Licking Valley Elementary School

When: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10:30am to Sunday, March 5, 2017, 2:30pm. If there are schedule conflicts we will work with the parents so the student can still participate.

Cost: \$25.00, includes T-shirt, four meals and all activities.

Registration Forms will be sent home with students the third week of January.

Questions? Contact Ruth Satterfield, School Counselor 740-763-2031

he 2016-17 school year second semester began in January. If you have not yet paid your student's school fees, please do so as soon as possible. Fees may be paid by cash, check, or on EZPay.

Unpaid fees follow your student throughout their school career and a student will not graduate unless all fees are paid in full.



Fees are posted on the student grade cards.

If you are not sure what your student's fees are, please contact the school to find out

and to make any arrangements needed to pay fees.

The EZPay system is a great way to pay your student's school fees and lunch account.

Parents can access the system by going to: www.edline.net/pages/licking_valley_local_sd

Click on the Parent tab and choose EZPay online.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Did you miss the deadline to order a middle school yearbook.? Good news! The deadline has been extended until



February 16, 2017. You can order online at

www.yearbookforever.com or

complete an order form with the form of payment and submit to Mrs. Thompson in room 164.

We are also accepting photos of your child during sporting events, 4-H, or any other extracurriculars they may be involved in. You can email those photos to <u>thompsonn@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us</u> for possible submission into the yearbook. If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Thompson.



ATTENTION PARENTS!!! CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES ARE IMPORTANT!

As you know, our school secretaries keep contact information on file for all of our students, including home phone, cell phone, and email data for all emergency contacts for each student. It is critical that parents make a special effort to notify their child's school promptly when any contact information for a student changes. The contact information on file is used not only by your child's school, but also by our transportation department in the event that a bus situation requires us to contact you. Also, our Leader Alert instant messaging system uses contact information for any recorded messages sent by the district, such as snow day notifications. We also use email address information for distribution of parent email messages during the school year. It is vital that all these departments have the most current information on file so that we can contact you if the need arises. So, please make sure to call the secretary at your child's school and update them on any phone number or email address changes. Should you have students at more than one building please contact each school to make sure they have the updated information as well. We can only keep our records current based on what our parents provide, and we appreciate your help in making sure your information is up-to-date.

Licking Valley Elementary Primary - (740)763-2865 Intermediate - (740)763-2031

Licking Valley Middle School (740)763-3396

Licking Valley High School (740)763-3721

Yearbook	Adventisi		
Business card \$75	¹ ⁄4 page \$100	½ page \$150	
(ads are		or and on $8\frac{1}{2} \ge 1$	
T CD			
Name of Business:			
Contact Name:			
Phone:			
Address:			
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Licking Valley Local School District

The Licking Valley Local School District is seeking individuals for the following positions:



Custodial: On-call subs with possible future daily position. Interested candidates should complete the <u>www.ohreap.net</u> application **and** e-mail Jack Shinn, **Custodial Maintenance Supervisor** at: <u>shinnj@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us</u>



Bus Driver: On-call subs with possible future daily position. Interested candidates should complete the <u>www.ohreap.net</u> application **and** e-mail Mickie Archer, **Transportation Supervisor** at: <u>archerm@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us</u>



Food Service: On-call subs with possible future daily position. *Interested candidates should complete the <u>www.ohreap.net</u> application and e-mail Jan Jennings, Food Service Supervisor at: <u>jenningsj@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us</u>*

Paraprofessionals making a difference every day....

Paraprofessionals making a difference every day... Educational Aide: On-call subs with possible future daily position. Interested candidates should complete the <u>www.ohreap.net</u> application **and** e-mail Laura Lahmers, District Secretary at <u>lahmersl@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us</u>

For more information, applicants can call the Licking Valley District Office at 740-763-3525 and ask for Jack Shinn, Maintenance Supervisor, Mickie Archer, Transportation Supervisor, Jan Jennings, Food Service Supervisor, or Laura Lahmers, District Secretary.

Licking Valley Board of Education

Mary Kay Martin, President Kim Christian, Vice President Jackie Caughenbaugh Lucinda Wills Shawn Shumaker

mkm52@windstream.net kimchristian0503@yahoo.com caughenbaughj@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us lwills@bowerstonshale.com shawn@adbuscomm.net



2017 8TH GRADE GETTYSBURG/ WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

The second deposit was due January 20, 2017. Please get those sent in if you still need to make a payment. Checks are made out to LVMS. The final deposit is due **March 10, 2017**. Adults that are going as a chaperone need to contact Laura Lahmers at: 740-763-2911 to verify your fingerprints. Applications and essays for students wishing to apply to place the wreath on the tomb of the Unknowns are due to Mr. Hageman by **February 3, 2017**. Applications can be found on his web page. Please contact Mr. Hageman at: 740-763-3396 or email to: hagemanm@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us with any

questions.

The dates of the trip are May 7, 8, 9, and 10, 2017. there will be an informational meeting in mid April at the middle school. A date for this meeting will be sent home at the end of spring break.

Search for Children with Disabilities

School districts throughout Ohio actively participate in an effort to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities birth through age 21. By disability, we mean conditions such as multiple disabilities, hearing impairment, visual impairment, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, emotional disturbance, cognitive disability, specific learning disability, speech and/or language disability, autism and traumatic brain injury. Many children with disabilities are not visible because they do not function in the main stream of the community. Also, many unidentified children with disabilities are preschoolers. Parents may not be aware that programs and services are available. If you know of a child with a disability, please contact:

Melissa Flanigan, School Psychologist, 763-3105 or

Mark McDaniel, Director of Student Services, 740-763-2897.

The Title I Reading Program at Licking Valley

Title I is a Federal Aid program through which most Ohio School districts receive funding each year to provide supplemental instruction for those students who qualify. To receive these funds, each state must submit a plan describing:

- What children are expected to know and be able to do;
- The high-quality standards of performance that all children are expected to meet;
- An ongoing record of student progress through assessment.

The Title I funded schools must work to:

- Identify students who are failing, or most-at-risk of failing, to meet state standards in reading or math
- Focus instruction to meet the specific needs of each child
- Develop programs that add to regular classroom instruction
- Involve parents in all aspects of the program.

Our Title I targeted assistance Reading Program provides intensive instruction to help our low-achieving children in grades K-5 master challenging curricula and meet state standards in reading. Our Title I teachers work closely with their students' regular classroom teachers in designing their extra instruction.

Parents are invited to contact Title I teachers, regular classroom teachers and principals with any questions regarding information about our program.

Mark McDaniel, Director of Student Services, 740-763-2897

mcdanielm@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us



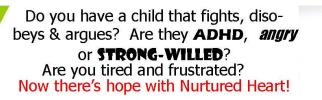
ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR FEB. 6th-16th OPEN DURING CONFERENCES FEB. 13th, 14th and 16th

Primary & Intermediate are able to shop both weeks





at Licking Valley Primary School





Nurtured Heart Approach® 3 Week Class

Howard Glasser is the creator of the Nurtured Heart Approach[®] which was developed in response to the lack of effective treatment for intense children. In this class you will learn:

- the basic foundations of nurtured heart
- why traditional methods do not work
- how to energize positive behavior in your kids
- what to do with negative behavior
- the importance of clear, consistent limits and
- get support from other parents & teachers



Presented by Cindy Cummons, MSW, LISW-S Advanced Nurtured Heart Approach® Trainer

Registration Form:

Wednesdays: February 1, 8, 15 (Set aside Feb. 22 in case of a snow day!) 6-8 pm

Location: Bridging Connections 30 Custer Rd., Heath, OH 43056 ***MUST Register by January 26, 2017****

RSVP by phone: 740.522.0009 ext. 2 Email: 4bridgewatercounseling@gmail.com FYI: NO childcare is provided during the class

Pricing Information:

Registration Form.	 \$90 Per Person for the 6 hour class.
	 \$30 Add-on for a spouse or caregiver.
Name:	Pay in 3 installments (\$30 ind/\$40 cpl)
	first payment due by 1/26.
Email:	 Payments can be made at the office, by
	phone, or at <u>bridging-connections.com</u>
Phone:	 Make checks payable to: Bridgewater
	Counseling and can be mailed to:
	30 Custer Rd., Heath, OH 43056

Utilizing Effectively the Nurtured Heart Approach®

Howard Glasser created the Nurtured Heart Approach[®] in response to the lack of effective treatment for intense children. It is now being used in a variety of setting including homes, schools, counseling, foster care and business. In this class you will learn:

- the basic foundation & methodology of the nurtured heart approach
- how to energize positive behavior in children and adults ٠
- what to do with negative behavior
- the importance of clear, consistent limits and ٠
- receive support from other professionals, parents & teachers

The class is taught by Cindy Cummons, MSW, LISW-S who is an Advanced Nurtured Heart Approach Trainer and in clinical practice in Heath, Ohio.

***Coffee, water, bagels and pastries will be available for breakfast.

Full Day Class: Friday, March 3, 2017 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Location: Vineyard Grace Fellowship 4905 Jacksontown Rd. SE. Newark, OH

CEU Information: 5.5 CUE's OCSWMFT board approval #MCST121613.

FYI: NO childcare is provided during the class.

Class Schedule:

8:00-8:30	Registration & Breakfast
8:30- 9:45	Session 1
9:45-10:00	Break
10—11:45	Session 2
11:45-12:45	Lunch (on your own)
12:45- 2:00	Session 3
2:00-2:15	Break
2:15-3:15	Session 4
3:15- 3:30	Question & Answer;
	Certificate distribution

Pricing Information

Single registrant	<u>Early*</u> \$90	<u>Regular</u> \$120
2-3 registrants	\$70 ea.	\$100 ea.
5 or more	\$50 ea.	\$ 80 ea.

*Early registration deadline 3/16/2017.

Register by calling 740-522-0009 ext. 2 By Email: 4bridgewatercounseling@gmail.com **On Web:** bridging-connections.com (payment through PayPal) By Mail: Complete the information on the right and mail to: Bridgewater Counseling, 30 Custer Rd., Heath, OH 43056

Name

Profession/License Number

Company/School

Email (for registration confirmation)

Phone

Make checks payable to : Bridgewater Counseling (Please copy for additional registrants)

The Power of **POSITIVE PARENTING**





Thursday, February 9, 2017 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Hosted by Licking County Family YMCA John and Christine Warner Family Center 470 West Church Street, Newark, OH

The Licking County Family YMCA will provide:

- Food and beverages
- Free gift card raffle
- Free childcare for ages 7 and under (Must be registered by February 3 to take advantage of the free childcare service.)

Please register by February 3 by calling (740) 522-1234, ext. 22, or email at TriplePseminar@hotmail.com. Include the number of people attending as well as the ages of the children who will require childcare.

The Power of Positive Parenting is a **Triple P** seminar that helps lower the stress of parenting by equipping parents to:

- Create an environment that encourages kids to learn
- Have reasonable expectations for kids
- Help kids take responsibility for their actions

Triple P is a researched based, internationally recognized, multilevel parent support program funded by Licking Memorial Health Systems and supported by Mental Health and Recovery of Licking and Knox Counties and Our Futures in Licking County.

96 percent of parents who have tried some of the **Triple P** strategies have seen an improvement in their child's behavior!





Calling all Moms and Sons! You've heard of the Daddy/Daughter Dance, but we know some boys aren't up for dancing. Moms and Sons come out for our x-treme fun event. We have planned laser tag, hamster ball races and other interactive fun!

(Mom not available? Grandmas, Aunts or other adult female loved ones are welcome to be an escort)

Event Info:

Date: March 12th Time: 4:00pm-6:30 pm Location: Licking Valley High School Ages: K-5th Grade Boys Price: \$30 Mom & 1 Son Admission - \$10 for each additional son



Your registration fee includes:

Pizza

.....

Registration confirmation will be

sent via email to the email address you provide on the registration form.

- Drinks
- Laser Tag
- Hamster Balls
- Professional Photo

Please see the registration form on the next page!

<u>Mom and Son</u> <u>X-Treme Fun Registration</u>

Sunday, March 12, 2017 from 4:00 - 6:30pm *This event is intended for young men who attend Licking Valley Elementary School in grades K-5 Registration Deadline: March 6th*

Name of Adult Attending the Event:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	
Child/Children Attending:	
Child #1 (included in the \$30 cost):	_ Grade:
Teacher:	
Relationship to Adult Attending Event:	
Child #2 (add \$10) Name:	Grade:
Teacher:	
Relationship to Adult Attending Event:	
Child #3 (add \$10) Name: Grade:	
Teacher:	
Relationship to Adult Attending Event:	
TOTAL COST:	:
_ MOM & CHILD #1: \$30.00	1
CHILD #2: \$10.00	-
CHILD #3: \$10.00	
CHECK # TOTAL ENCLOSED:	
:	
-	



Register for Classes NOW!

By attending class you will receive:

- * TRAINING on how children learn and grow!
- * FREE BOOKS to help with learning!
- * FREE "TOOLS"/ TOYS to make learning fun!
- * FREE CHILDCARE for children 12 months or older while you attend classes (Note: Parents/Caregivers in the 0-1 class may bring their infant to class)

SPRING CLASS DATE: Saturday April 8, 2017

Classes will be held at: LV Primary Elementary School, 1510 Licking Valley Rd. NE, Newark Babies and toddlers are born learning. Getting ready for school starts at birthl

Space is

Limited!

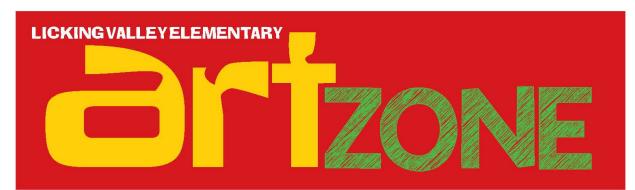
Class Time Schedule:

9:30-10:00 - Orientation for first time parents (Materials will be distributed) 10:00 - 11:30 READY! Classes for all parents



Register for Classes by Calling: 763-3525

If you have any questions, email us at: ready4k@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us



February 2016

In The Classroom:

The art rooms have been busy creating a lot of dust. It has been clay time in the art department. Students have also been working in watercolor when not doing clay. They are creating many works that are centered around the country of Mexico, which is our theme for our art show this year.

Honors Art Club

Honors Art Club for 5th grade started in November by Mrs. Burghy. The club was by invitation only using recommendations from both art teachers. Twenty students were selected and during the months of November and December have been working on items to donate to the A Night for Hearts for the Wyatt Adkins Heart Organization auction which will be held in February on the 18th. All are welcome to attend this event please contact Courtney Lichtenour at the LV High school for more information.

Traveling to the orient through art, students learned the ancient art of Japenese papermaking known as Joomchi. These papers will be on display at the elementary the month of February. Come see what they have been doing.

For their current project they are looking at the artist Mark Jenkins, who uses packing tape to create sculptures that he puts into real life situations. Art club students are creating their own sculptures out of packing tape that will be put throughout the school in real situations. This is a type of art called environmental art.



Things we need:

• yarn

• burlap

Artsonia

Don't forget Artsonia! Both art teachers will continue to upload each project that your child creates onto Artsonia. If you didn't give permission last year for your child's artwork to be seen, please do so this year. Each child has a secret code which allows you and anyone you allow to see your student's artwork. Each child's identity is protected which makes this a safe and fun way to see what they are doing in art. You also have the opportunity to purchase items with your child's artwork on it. This is also a great way to create unique gifts for someone. Contact your art teacher if you need your students code.

Save the date...

Our end of the year art show will be Friday, May 19. Stay tuned for more information. This year's theme is "Mexican Fiesta".

Check out our new elementary art website

http://www.lveart.weebly.com

Community Art Options

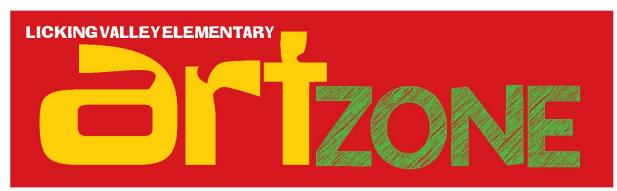
Licking County Arts

50 S 2nd St., Newark, Ohio

Various art shows and activities are planned each month. Go online to https://n4rlocal.com/lickingcountyarts/gallery-shop

Columbus Museum of Art - Free Sundays

Bring your friends and family and enjoy PNC Free Sundays at Columbus Museum of Art. Explore the Walter Wing, play in the Wonder Room, or build a puzzle together in a gallery. There's a great experience around every corner. PNC is providing support for the Columbus Museum of Art's Free Sundays through the PNC Foundation. A grant from the PNC Arts Alive initiative provides free general admission for museum visitors, each and every Sunday. PNC Free Sundays increase accessibility for all



February 2017

residents of Central Ohio, regardless of their ability to pay. We are pleased to be able to continue this gift to the community through the support of PNC.

Columbus Museum of Art

Sarah Boor Bennett Family Adventures Tour

February 26, 2017

2:00 PM Share ideas, laugh, and play games during this docentguided experience. Your family team may embark on a scavenger hunt, imagine yourselves inside a painting, or discover a work of art that tells a family story. Family Adventures are a great way to share quality time and make new memories together. No registration requested. Family programs are supported by Cardinal Health Foundation.

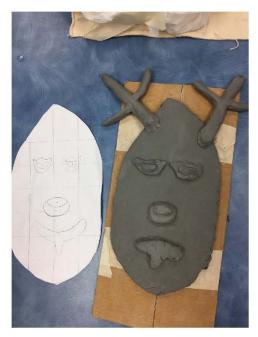
Come visit us during conferences on Feb. 14 and 16th. Both art teachers will be in during these evenings.

Contact Us

740-763-2557 Mrs. Burghy burghyk@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us Mrs.Cannon cannonk@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us









The Camps are back from Haiti and our lives will never be the same! Please join us at the

Cultural Connections Coffee House February 9th 6:00 PM in the LVHS Media Center.



By visiting the poorest country in the Western

Hemisphere, we realize just how blessed and privileged we are to live here! Your support has meant the world to us, now please join us as we have the opportunity to share our world with you.





LICKING VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE TESTING DATES

LANGUAGE ARTS

Part I - Tuesday, March 14th

Part II - Thursday, March 16th

MATH Part I - Tuesday, April 4th

Part II - Thursday, April 6th



SOCIAL STUDIES - GR. 6 & SCIENCE - GR. 8 Part I - Tuesday, April 11th

Part II - Thursday, April 13th

2017 Central Ohio Regional Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition

Three Licking Valley students, 8th grader Jazzy Hardbarger, Freshman Rachel Guilliams, and 8th grader Meghan Nelson, were recently notified that their work will be included in the 2017 Central Ohio Regional Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition.

Jazzy earned a Gold Key Award for her acrylic painting "Idol from the 80's", Rachel earned a Gold Key for her digital drawing titled "Into the Light" along with two other Silver Key Awards for her digital drawings "Nevermore" and "The Greatest", and Meghan earned a Silver Key Award for her reduction print "Midnight Mouser". The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing



Meghan Nelson "Midnight Mouser"

Awards. Through the awards, students receive opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. Students across America submitted nearly 320,000 original works during the 2016 program year across 29 different categories of art and writing. This year Jazzy, Rachel, and Meghan competed against a pool of students in grades 7-12 to achieve the honor of earning a space in the exhibit. Jazzy and Rachel's gold key award winning work will now move on to consideration for the national exhibit in New York.



Jazzy Hardbarger "Idol from the 80's"



Rachel Guilliams "Into the Light"

Scholastic Art Awards (continued)

Students awarded a Gold Key or Silver Key are invited to display their work in the 2017 Central Ohio Regional Scholastic Art Awards exhibition. Columbus College of Art & Design will hold an Award Ceremony for the 2017 Gold Key and Silver Key winners from Central Ohio on Saturday, February 11 at 10am! Gold Key and Silver Key Award recipients will receive an invitation to attend the Award Ceremony immediately followed by a reception to honor their achievements.

The exhibit will run from February 13 through 23 in Columbus College of Art & Design Acock Gallery, Canzani Center. The exhibition can be visited any time while it's up February 13th to February 23rd Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday and Sunday noon to 5pm. All students who receive a Gold Key, Silver Key, or Honorable Mention will be listed in the exhibition program book which will be available in the gallery February 13th to February 23rd.



Rachel Guilliams "The Greatest"



Rachel Guilliams





A couple months ago, I sat in class as we read a book set in 1960s America. As references of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, The March on Washington, and the Birmingham Bombing intertwine with the events of the novel, we began to discuss as a class. When the teacher asked, "Who knows what the Birmingham bombing was?" I raised my hand, certain to find competition for the teacher to call on.

I was the only one able to concisely summarize the horrific events that happened that fateful Sunday afternoon in Birmingham, Alabama.

As the discussions went on day to day it was apparent that I was one of the only people in the class that had ever put any thought to these topics. I began to think to myself, "This is crazy. How don't people know of these events that only occurred a few decades before we were born?" Not only were they unaware of the magnitude of the Civil Rights Movement, some students were oblivious to key pieces of American lineage.

Quickly, I was hit with the realization that none of my knowledge of the Civil Rights Movement came from a Licking Valley classroom. My awareness of the Jim Crow era had surfaced due to my own reading and self teaching.

After class the teacher stopped to question me on how I had acquired knowledge on the events and why I felt so passionately about them. While put on the spot, the only response I could muster up was "I don't know it is just what I care and like learning about." I had never really thought of the disconnect between my peers and the outside world until this moment. As I went throughout my day, the conversation haunted me. I transferred my thoughts to paper and wrote the teacher an email better explaining myself.

"I have been thinking a lot about our conversation earlier. A better response to the question of what inclines me to study and accept diversity is simple, my Journalism class. Journalism is where I most often find myself researching and learning about our world. However, I'd venture to say that I am one of few in the class who tackles international and domestic civil rights issues. The class is set up in such a way where you write and report on what is interesting to you. This is a brilliant concept that turns our student reporting into something meaningful, instead of a chore elective course. So while I have the freedom to research these topics, not everyone else is as well. Another gift that Journalism, Mr. Comeras rather, has given me, is discussion. When I read something that shocks me, I begin a conversation with Mr. Comeras. This is where the heart of my exploration beyond Licking Valley lies. These conversations are what has shaped me into who I am today.

I realize in the mind of a teacher, the life-altering conversations and opinions they share to students might be a burden they are not willing to take on. However, in a school like Licking Valley I believe they are crucial. Hardly am I ever encouraged to bring up real-world applications of what I am learning in class. This is because teachers are afraid of not being PC enough, and simply not caring to be newscasters to the entire class. Heck- our teachers are afraid to talk about our own grading system in fear of slipping up and saying something unprofessional. Also, many teachers fear that it interrupts day-to-day classwork and may create a polarizing environment; however, a world in which everyone agrees is one I have yet to live in. This teaches students a valuable life principle that opposing views exist. Discussion of these views also help students further create their own identity.

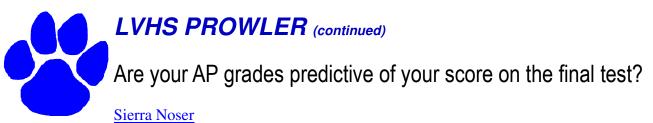
It would be extremely beneficial to have more classes like Women's Lit; African American Studies, Globalization, Contemporary Affairs etc. Cultural Connections and clubs celebrating diversity should be courses, not optional organizations. In a school such as Licking Valley, compensating for the lack of diversity should be a number one priority. Schools prepare children for the real world, and while within our small county limits people may be a lot like us, if you take a 45 minute trip in any direction, you are confronted with a world our students are not prepared to face.

Conversation over confusion and hurt in the world should be encouraged, not ignored.

It should not be placed on the student's own discretion to learn about our country and our world. If subjects such as English were based off of interest in them, I would not be able to write this to you today. Acceptance of other cultures begins with it being brought to everyone's attention, whether they like it or not.

Pretending social issues and cultural differences do not exist while school is in session does not make them disappear once we leave the building at 2:30.

Though I love being a part of the Licking Valley community, it is a small rural farming town seemingly shut out from the rest of the world. There are wonderful people in this town; however, ideology tends to be insular. In all aspects of life, from religion to political affiliation, there is a pretty good chance neighbors are going to hold the same values as one another. Education is the singular gateway to diversity. It is imperative that rural schools take on the responsibility of creating well-rounded, well-cultured students.



Throughout high school, AP classes are encouraged for those who plan to go to college. These classes are meant to prepare students for the rigorous courses for those subjects in college. The entire AP class is set up around the learning material and how to pass the test. However, are these classes truly preparing students for the tests, and are the grades received any indication of what score you are likely to attain on the final exam?

AP English teacher at Licking Valley High School, Mrs. Adkins, reasons that the outliers of the AP Language and Comp test make it nearly impossible to predict scores. She thinks, "If they would be able to sit through and a college comp class, their knowledge should enable them to earn a passing score on the test."

That said, some of her brightest students and best writers scored a non-passing two on their AP Language and Comp test in the spring. LV history teacher Mr. Nethers described the differences between the achievement of a good grade, and the achievement of a high or even passing score on AP tests. There is only one shot to receive a good score, you cannot redo the test, and there is no way to know exactly what material will be on it.

Time outside of class is essential to passing the test, and LV history teacher Mr. Clark describes what's needed as "an entirely higher level of outside preparation." Many students are not willing, or simply don't have the time for this. To receive a good grade, you have multiple chances to raise that grade, and you know exactly what to study for tests and quizzes.

Many factors such as the students' test-taking ability, the person grading the test, and the writing prompts given on the test can make the prediction of an AP score hard to determine. There have been recent studies that show multiple-choice tests are the least effective measure of knowledge and this makes up for 45 percent of AP test scores. So, is it fair to the students who work hard all year just to end up failing the final exam?

Mr. Anderson, the current physical fitness teacher at LV, stated that "it all depends on how the class is taught." In an AP class he once took, they focused on terms and was well prepared for the test, but classes in which teachers do not focus on terms may not prepare students as well.

Another factor of these non-passing test scores, as stated by Mr. Clark, is the current grading system. Because of the inflation of grades due to redos and retakes, grades are a less accurate representation of students actual knowledge and skill of that subject.

After reviewing data, it can be concluded that grades received in any particular class will not determine your AP test grade. Two unnamed students in the same class who received the same grade of a C+, one received a score 1 and the other received a score of 4.

Though this may be true, most teachers agreed that AP classes will prepare students for college courses in corresponding subjects. Mr. Nethers stated his children took AP Chem in high school, and even though they all failed the test, they were well prepared for the same subject matter in college and were able to study less in that specific course.

While AP is not for everyone, it is highly encouraged for college-bound students who are willing to work. Are grades in AP classes predictive of your score on the final test? To answer this simply, no. Due to the aforementioned reasons, they are not.

However, if the question being asked was, are AP course useful, the answer would always be yes.

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