

# Gallia-Vinton ESC



## Newsletter

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A Publication of the Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center



### A Message from the ESC Superintendent

The Gallia-Vinton ESC has been designated as a **"high-performing"** educational service center by the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Budget and School Funding. An application was submitted to ODE outlining the total percentage of cost savings generated for the ESC's clients in the previous fiscal year due to the clients receiving primary services from the Gallia-Vinton ESC as opposed to another source. A panel of ODE consultants announced the designation in mid-October.

Across the state, ESCs reported more than \$54 million in savings for the services during the 2015-2016 school year. The Gallia-Vinton ESC had an average of 29.4% cost savings to local school districts for services such as one-on-one aides, resident educator programs, science professional development, school psychologists and therapists, and after school program administration.

### Upcoming in December:

- **December 9, 2016**  
Last day of afterschool programs for December 2016 until January
- **December 13-14, 2016**  
Landmark Moments Fellowship
- **December 22-26, 2016**  
Christmas Break – Office Closed
- **December 29, 2016-January 2, 2017**  
New Year's Break – Office Closed



### Rainforest Exhibit Increases Conservation Awareness

Rainforests are a timely topic in an era of increased environmental awareness. The topic appeals to students because the term invites thoughts of exotic, unfamiliar and fascinating places, animals, and living things. **Understanding Wildlife**, a non-profit organization dedicated to rainforest conservation, brought a bit of the rainforest to our local students.

Area schools in Gallia, Jackson and Lawrence counties hosted the **Understanding Wildlife** exhibit

that was viewed by 7,500 students and parents. Students were treated to a presentation with a large assortment of live animals including a kinkajou, monkey, alligator, lemur, birds and snakes. There were many squeals of delight when a bird flew over the audience.



## District 14 Science Day Moving to University of Rio Grande Campus

The University of Rio Grande and the Gallia-Vinton ESC are co-hosting the Ohio Academy of Science **District 14 Science Day** for the first time in March 2017. District 14 includes Gallia, Lawrence, Scioto, Pike, and Adams counties. Students in grades 5-12 are eligible to participate and can select from a broad range of science fair topic categories including behavioral and social sciences, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space sciences, engineering, environmental sciences, mathematics, medicine and health sciences, microbiology, physics, and zoology.



The students prepare for the Science Day competition through a series of steps. First, each student states a problem, question or a design statement to solve. Next the student uses knowledge gained from searching literature, taking notes, and building a background of information to formulate a hypothesis or design statement. Finally, the student prepares required judging elements to include a: 1) research plan, 2) research report, and 3) project date book/notebook. On the day of competition, the student is expected to give a clear and concise oral presentation of their project, answer questions, and to define any terms used. A display board with appropriate information (including graphs, data tables, drawings, sketches, diagrams, or photographs) also provides a visual display of the project. A 250-word abstract of the project helps the student summarize the investigation, methods and results.

Students are judged by a panel of experts and receive a superior, excellent, good or satisfactory rating. By receiving a superior rating, students can advance to the State Science Day or the Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair. There is an opportunity at the Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair to qualify for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

## Spotlight on ESC Staff



Connie Bradbury is an afterschool consultant at the Gallia-Vinton ESC. She is a graduate of Morehead State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics. Connie received her Master's Degree from the University of Dayton in School

Counseling.

She has 26 years of teaching experience in the Gallia County Local Schools and former Kyger Creek School District. Connie also has 9 years of counseling experience in the Gallia County Local School District, specifically River Valley High School. Connie has been at the Gallia-Vinton ESC for the past 7 years.



David Perry is employed by the Gallia-Vinton ESC and serves as the Prevention Coordinator and The Digital Academy Administrator for the Gallipolis City Schools. He is a graduate of the University of Rio Grande with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and the University of Dayton with a Master of Science in Education.

Early in his career, David was employed by Vinton County Local Schools as an intervention specialist. He was a teacher, assistant principal, and career development transition project coordinator for Gallipolis City Schools prior to retirement. David has been with the Gallia-Vinton ESC for four years.



## Top Music Program in Jackson City Schools

Jackson City Schools have been designated as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for the fourth consecutive year. Jackson boasts the largest marching band in Southeastern Ohio with 170 members and is led by Aaron Rex, high school band director. In addition to the Marching Ironmen, the other high school bands in the school district are the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band I, Jazz Band II, and Pep Band. The middle school has a very strong band program as well. The various bands under the direction of Ryan Hurd are the 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band, and Jazz Band.



The Jackson community has long supported the music program in the school district. Band concerts held at the 880-seat middle school auditorium are very popular and have become standing room only events. Aaron Rex said that the school district administration and community highly value music and the arts and these two stakeholder groups are vital to having an outstanding music program. He said, "It is the pride of the community to have a large and a good band. Some 400 students in Grades 6-12 participate in a comprehensive band program in this school district. Parents were part of the band during their school years and they want their children to also be in the band. There is just a long tradition of music in this community."

There is a high number of athletes in the band program. The coaches and music teachers collaborate to ensure that students are able to participate in both athletics and music. It is not uncommon for students to compete in an athletic event and then rush to participate in a concert performance.

Each year the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) hosts district competition for vocal and instrumental music students. The OMEA Large Group adjudicated event for full bands and choirs is held at Shawnee State University. At this event last year, both the Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Choir received unanimous "Superior" ratings in Class A. The OMEA Solo & Ensemble adjudicated event is held at Ohio University. Jackson High School and Jackson Middle School band students received a total of 49 "Superior" ratings at the competition. And, choir students from both schools received 28 "Superior" ratings.



The Jackson Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform at the 2017 OMEA Conference in Cleveland during February 2017. This is one of the highest honors a music program can receive from OMEA. Previously, the Marching Ironmen performed for The Ohio State University (OSU) Marching Band at Skull Session prior to an OSU football game, at Walt Disney World, in Chicago, and at Niagara Falls. The Jackson High Symphonic Choir, considered one of the best in the region, has also performed in New York City.

Many band and choir graduates from Jackson City Schools participate in music at the collegiate level. Jackson graduates are currently performing with groups at The Ohio State University, Ohio University, University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Capital University, Morehead State University, and the University of Rio Grande.



Mary Elizabeth Billman, Brett Floyd, Aaron Rex, and Ryan Hurd

Students begin formal training in instrumental music in 6th Grade and vocal music in 7th Grade. The school district employs four music teachers and issues supplemental contracts for an additional three assistant music teachers. A very active boosters group also supports the music programs.

## The Young Americans Workshop Coming to Wellston City Schools

Yes, *The Young Americans* are coming to Wellston City Schools to provide a three day workshop in singing, dancing, and performing during February 2017. Three hundred students in Grades 4-12 will take classes in the areas of voice, dance, songwriting, and both acting and improv performance. Throughout the entire three days, the focus will be on the students as individuals. The goal is to encourage every student to become more confident in who they are and what they'd like to become. This opportunity is open to all Jackson and Vinton County students.



The cost to participate in the program is **\$60 per student**. Sponsors are needed to provide scholarships for the participants that may need financial assistance. Contact Karen Boch, Wellston City Schools Superintendent, by phone (740) 384-2152 or by email at [kboch@wcs.k12.oh.us](mailto:kboch@wcs.k12.oh.us) for further information.

At the end of the three day workshop, students will perform a variety show to demonstrate their musical, dance, and performance skills.

*The Young Americans* is a non-profit organization and performing group based in Southern California. First founded in 1962, the group is credited with being the first show choir in America, mixing choreography with choral singing. The Young Americans teach music to students in the United States and other parts of the world as advocates of music education in their International Music Outreach Tours. The group has approximately 200 young people between the ages of 16 and 25 from nearly every U.S. state and several other countries.



## Eye on Graduation Through Digital Option

The Gallipolis City Schools has a partnership agreement with the Virtual Community School of Ohio for online learning opportunities. David Perry, Prevention Coordinator, is the local "mentor" for the students enrolled in The Digital Academy. Perry says, "The relationship makes a significant difference to students as compared to virtual schools with no local professional staff." He stays in weekly contact with the students through phone calls, texts, e-mail, and office and home visits. Students are encouraged

to contact him at any time, including evenings and weekends, when they have a question and/or need.

The Digital Academy assisted five Gallia Academy High School seniors to earn their high school diploma during the 2015-2016 school year. Many other underclassmen were also able to earn a full year of credits through online instruction and have continued their online coursework in the 2016-2017 school year. The Digital Academy has established a proven track record of helping students graduate with a Gallia Academy High School diploma while studying from home. The students are provided a laptop, online courses and teachers, and available contact hours at Gallia Academy High School at no cost to the student and/or family.

Students have a need for online learning options due to working a full-time job, being a teen parent, needing to make up credits, etc. The Digital Academy meets that need and has proven to be a vital link in student achievement and success for some students in Grades 8-12 in the Gallipolis City School District. Currently in the 2016-2017 school year, participating underclassmen are on track to earn a full-year of credits. Four seniors are preparing to graduate from Gallia Academy High School via The Digital Academy on May 26, 2017. For additional information, contact David Perry at (740) 446-3212.

## Music Therapy Can Impact Students for a Lifetime

The **Vinton County Local School District** has implemented an innovative program to address cognitive, communication, social, physical, emotional and behavioral needs of a special population of students. Music Therapy is a research-based, therapeutic medium that is taking place once per week in the Multi-Handicapped classes at South and Central Elementary Schools and in a Kindergarten class for Students with Disabilities at West Elementary.



A certified music therapist utilizes various forms of music, like playing the guitar, singing, or tapping sticks, to teach students skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. For instance, students follow directions (“raise your left hand”, “use a complete sentence to ask for tapping sticks”, or, “let’s count the taps together”) to take part in the activities. The students, like most all people would be, are highly motivated to participate in the melodic sessions and eagerly engage in learning and demonstrating new skills. Research indicates that the therapeutic services can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of learning and retention. Mike Waggoner,

Vinton County Local School District Special Education Director, has visited the classrooms during the sessions and has this to say: “I saw every student fully engaged and smiling. Students were clapping to the beat, counting, reading song-related words, acting out lyrics, and enjoying the lesson. I am pleased the students have this opportunity and am thrilled with the joy they are experiencing as they learn. I am gratified the students are acquiring new and relevant academic, social, and behavioral skills!”

## Gallia Fleet Services Initial Building Design and Evaluation Plan

The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Industrial Compliance, has given initial design approval for the **Gallia Fleet Services** centralized transportation center. With 7,688 square feet, the 4-bay garage will allow for school buses, EMS and

police vehicles, fire trucks, transportation vans, and maintenance vehicles to be serviced in a state-of-the-art facility. The shared services project has an initial estimated potential savings for school districts and governmental entities of at least 50% on labor and 20% on parts.



To track cost savings, the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs has been contracted by the Gallia-Vinton ESC to examine multi-year transportation cost analysis and shared services components for all partner agencies. The evaluation design will

utilize the current three-year moving average parts and labor costs for each participating entity as baseline data. The evaluators will also describe the implementation successes, challenges, and “lessons learned” in order to scale up or replicate if the project is successful in significant transportation cost savings.



## New Amphitheater and Expanded Public Access Coming to Gallipolis Riverfront

The Ohio Historical Marker on the riverbank overlooking the Ohio River states that the river played a significant role in the development of Gallipolis and Gallia County. One of the state's first thoroughfares, this waterway enabled pioneers to settle in what was known as the Northwest Territory. On October 17, 1790, approximately 500 French immigrants arrived in Gallipolis, traveling by flatboats from Pittsburgh, and settled in log cabins in what is now the Gallipolis City Park.

To make the riverfront area more attractive to visitors, the Gallipolis City Commission has embarked on a renovation project to increase public access to the waterfront on First Avenue near the Gallipolis City Park. The current park front has 9.85 acres and 62 parking spaces, a boat ramp, and floating docks. Through an Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant in the amount of \$1,096,500.00, access will be updated. Additional parking will allow for 70 boats, vendors and campers to park by the river. An amphitheater for public shows and events with seating for approximately 150 people with a concrete stage area will be constructed along with 38 car parking spaces. ADA access ramps, a concession area, and expanded lighting and landscaping will also be added.

Gallipolis City Manager Gene Greene said, "I expect the first group to use the amphitheater will be the Friday night gospel sings. Schools can use the stage for music and theatre performances. Schools will also be able to go to the bigger parking area to view helicopter landings, fire trucks, and EMS vehicles. It will be a much safer venue for these types of events."



Greene continued, "You will probably see the lunch crowd navigate to the amphitheater seating area just to enjoy their lunch and watch the river. On most days now, the swings and benches on the top area of the riverfront are occupied. And, merchants are very interested in events for the expanded access area as the city park can get congested."

Pullins Excavation of Pomeroy is the general contractor on the project. The estimated completion date is December 2016. Gene Greene invites all to come and visit the Gallipolis Riverfront area when the work is finished.



## Gallia County Artisan Market

**November 19 & 20, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.**

A wide variety of quality, handmade products from local Artisans for sale in Bob Evans' Event Barn.

## SuccessMaker® Accommodates Different Learning Styles

Students come to school with diverse backgrounds and abilities. High-stakes assessments place additional pressures upon educators to raise the performance of all students to a higher standard. In order to meet students' needs, educators are increasingly looking to adaptive technologies to help close the achievement gap.

The **Gallia County Local Schools** has been able to provide the Pearson SuccessMaker® Math and Reading adaptive courseware to students in Grades 3-8 through an arrangement with the National Education Foundation. The program provides instruction, practice and assessment that is well-correlated to Common Core Standards for both mathematics and language arts at all grade levels of the program. The school district has chosen a special focus during the 2016-2017 school year on Grades 4 and 7 with incentives provided to students that meet achievement targets.



Designed to accommodate a full array of different learning styles, SuccessMaker® utilizes an adaptive initial diagnostic at the beginning of the course to place students at the courseware level that best represents the point where a student is ready to learn. The primary guiding features of the program are to: 1) Decide where to begin instruction, 2) Determine when the student demonstrates learning, 3) Emphasize content appropriate to the student's needs, 4) Clarify points when difficulties arise, 5) Remind the student of knowledge previously attained, and 6) Check the student's recollection of previously mastered material. Individual learner paths guide the student to targeted performance goals.

Rochelle Halley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Gallia County Local Schools, says, "We are very excited to partner with the National Education Foundation in order to offer this program to our students. We have spent a significant amount of time examining the potential benefits of adopting SuccessMaker® and truly believe that it will contribute positively to students attaining achievement gains in Reading and Math. At this point, after only having used the program for a short time, we are already finding that our students' progress is consistent with what has been promised and that we are on track to close some gaps if that progress continues at the current rate."

Teacher professional development is vital to the success of the program. Teachers that are intervention specialists and teach language arts and math in Grades 4 and 7 have received ongoing training. In turn, this core group of teachers have trained other teachers within their respective buildings.

For further information contact Rochelle Halley at [gl\\_rhalley@seovec.org](mailto:gl_rhalley@seovec.org) or (740) 379-9085.

**Veterans Day** is an official United States holiday to honor men and women who have served in our armed services. It is an observed event each year in schools and communities across America. The day is set aside to help Americans remember the anniversary of the end of World War I. The battles of World War I were formally ended at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918. A special thanks to all veterans for serving to make our country free.



# After-school Programs Provide Benefits to Youth, Families, and Communities

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated to supporting afterschool programs. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) updated and reauthorized the 21st CCLC program in December 2015. Each state receives funds based on its share of Title I funding. In turn, each state awards grants to local school districts and community based organizations to provide: 1) academic enrichment activities that can help students meet achievement standards, 2) a broad array of additional services designed to complement the regular academic program, such as: drug and violence prevention, counseling, art, music, and recreation, technology education, and character education, and 3) literacy and related educational development services to the families of children who are served in the program.

**The Gallia-Vinton ESC provides management for 17 after school grants at 20 program sites.**

## ➔ Gallia County Local Schools

Hannan Trace Elementary  
Southwestern Elementary  
South Gallia Middle School  
River Valley Middle School  
South Gallia High School  
River Valley High School

## ➔ Wellston City Schools

Bundy Elementary  
Wellston Intermediate  
Wellston Middle School  
Wellston High School

## ➔ Jackson City Schools

Northview Elementary  
Southview Elementary  
Jackson High School

## ➔ Chesapeake Union Exempted Village Schools

Chesapeake Elementary  
Chesapeake Middle School  
Chesapeake High School

## ➔ Gallipolis City Schools

Washington Elementary  
Gallia Academy Middle School/Pilot Center  
Gallia Academy High School

## ➔ Oak Hill Union Local Schools

Oak Hill Elementary



Effective afterschool programs bring a wide range of benefits to youth, families and communities by boosting academic performance, reducing risky behaviors, promoting physical health, and providing a safe, structured environment for the children of working parents.