

From the Heart of the ValleyTM

Publication of Conotton Valley Union Local School District SUMMER 2015



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Conotton Valley Union Local School District welcomes you back as we prepare to start the 2015-16 school year! Registration will open two weeks prior to the start of school, which is Tuesday, Sept. 1. See inside this issue for more opening school news.



Opening School

First day of school for students

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015

Registration

Conotton Valley Union Local will open registration two weeks prior to the start of school. Registration will be held in respective buildings.

Grades: 1-4

Conotton Valley Elementary600 Main St., Bowerston, OH
(740) 269-2141

Grades: Pre School, Kindergarten and 5-12

Conotton Valley Jr./Sr. High.....7205 Cumberland Rd. Bowerston, OH
(740) 269-2711

Conotton Valley Schools begins the year 1:1 with Technology

This fall, CVULS is excited to begin the year with technology available to each student. Students in grades 7-12 will receive a Chromebook that they will be able to use at school as well as at home. Grades 2-6 will use their own Chromebook while at school, and have access to iPad carts. Grades K-1 will have access to iPads and the first grade students will also use a Chromebook computer lab.

Implementation of technology among multiple buildings can be a costly endeavor. Last year, CVHS was awarded the 21st Century Grant. This grant money allowed CV to purchase the Chromebooks for grades 7-12.

In addition to students having their own devices, teachers also have their own iPads and desktops. The high school will also be adding interactive projectors to classrooms this year. It is an exciting time for technology.

Digital Citizenship

Conotton Valley Union Local Schools are privileged to have access to technology in and around the classroom. With this privilege, comes a responsibility to use this technology in the way that it was intended. We call this being a good "Digital Citizen." We expect staff, students and parents to uphold their role in creating good digital citizens.

As a parent or adult, you will need to set ground rules on technology use. In addition to this, monitoring media use and discussing appropriate sites to visit will help. It is also recommended that you know your children's passwords and codes for their devices. Regularly checking their social online behaviors will help as well.

It is important for students to be aware of acceptable online practice. Students should avoid sharing or posting inappropriate images, sharing passwords, posting personal information and communicating with unknown individuals. Students can also be aware of suspicious behavior such as being asked for pictures, being asked to use a webcam and being asked if they are alone. Students are also expected to refrain from cyber bullying such as spreading rumors or gossip, posting pictures of others without their permission, pretending to be someone they are not and threatening or harassing others. If students are aware of cyber bullying, they are asked to inform an adult immediately.

Students must be aware that once a picture, comment or file is placed on a public internet site, it's out there forever and it cannot be taken back or deleted. It is more important now than ever that parents know what their children are doing online. Take the time to talk to your children about this important subject. For more information, please visit www.commonssensemedia.org

This new school year promises to be great as we set high expectations for learning and create opportunities for all students.

Superintendent's Message

Hello, Conotton Valley Stakeholders. I hope this newsletter reaches you in a time of hot summer sun and enjoyment of our communities many recreational opportunities. It will not be long before we are recognizing the class of 2016.

I am writing to inform you of many exciting things to come for Conotton Valley Union Local School District. We will be kicking off the second year of our 21st Century Community Grant in August with several back to school events including a "jump start" program to help students get back into the learning mindset for school. More information about this program will be released at a later date.

Another exciting note is the construction of the new elementary building addition to the current high school. By the time this reaches you, the district will have broken ground on Phase 1 of the construction project. Phase 1 is primarily the reworking of the southeast entrance and will be completed before Sept. 1, 2015, the first day of school. Phase 2 will be the bulk of the construction and will take place throughout the 2015-16 school year with an expected completion date in Spring 2016. Phase 3 will then complete the resurfacing of the entrance way and parking lot in Summer 2016. Students and staff will occupy the new facility at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

You can read more about the construction project and keep up to date with the latest by visiting our website at www.cvul.org. The "CV Future" link is where this information can be found. You can also "like" us on our new Facebook page and "follow" us on Twitter. These links are also available on our website.

Next, the district's staff will be taking on new initiatives this year. They will be participating in several professional development opportunities throughout the school year to enhance the level of instruction provided to all students at Conotton Valley. Staff will receive specific professional development training throughout the 2015-16 school year that will involve the district provided Chromebook laptops. Each student will be using a Chromebook this year and we feel this will give our educators the best possible ways to incorporate them in their teaching. Conotton Valley recognizes students learn differently than they did in years past, and we have embraced that by changing our instructional practices to those benefitting a 21st century learner.

Our district leadership team comprised of administration and teachers are beginning year two of working with the Ohio Department of Education State Support Team Region 12 to work on The Ohio School Improvement Process. From this committee, many curriculum and instruction decisions are being made to improve the instructional practices of our teachers so we will continue to provide excellent instruction to your children.

In closing, our staff is excited about all the positive changes coming to Conotton Valley. We are eager to work with your children and would certainly welcome any new students to Conotton Valley for the 2015-16 school year. Please enjoy the remainder of summer and I can't wait to see each and every one of you at open house on Aug. 31, 2015. Thank you, and Go Rockets!

—Jerry T. Herman, Superintendent of Schools



HighSchool

Daily Reading Opportunity for Students and Staff

As CVHS begins another school year geared toward providing students with opportunities that will guide them to a successful future, the staff is adding a daily reading time during enrichment period. During this 20-minute block, students will have the opportunity to choose their own school appropriate text. Staff will also participate on a daily basis.

Giving students the opportunity to choose their own books empowers them to read about topics that they are interested in. Daily reading time can have a positive impact on all students. Please take the time to talk about the importance of this time with your child.

Good Attendance Has Its Rewards

Maintaining good attendance is extremely important. Students with good attendance are more likely to be at the top of their class in grades and tests. It is the most reliable predictor of graduating from high school. CVHS recognizes this and has decided to reward those students who make the effort to be in school each day.

Students who miss two days or less through Nov. 1 will earn the chance to attend a Wheeling Nailers game on Nov. 10! There will also be another incentive in the Spring that is still in the planning stages.

We look forward to seeing ALL students at school this year!

Grade "A" Opportunity

CVHS wants to encourage each student to do their best this year. This fall, an "All A's" incentive will be taking place. Students will be entered into a drawing for every "A" they earn on their report cards. Please continue encouraging your students to do their best.

The 2015-16 school year is also bringing "All in Mondays!" Please look for more information about this surprise in August! Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!



Engaged and hard-working students are a typical site at Conotton Valley Elementary!



Conotton Valley is focused on providing all learners with skills to adapt intellectually and socially to their changing environment.

ElementarySchools

Calling all Grandparents/Special People

Conotton Valley Grandparents/Special Persons Day will be held on Sept. 14 starting at 12:30 p.m. at CVE. We welcome all guests to attend activities at our building with the theme being reading around school with grandparent/special persons Dr. Seuss style. Our building will have various Dr. Seuss related reading activities. Guests will rotate through the activities with their school friend. The building will also be decorated with a Dr. Seuss related reading theme. We look forward to seeing you there.

Elementary Students Participate in Star Reading and Math

In an effort to help students monitor their own learning and increase motivation, CV Elementary will be again using Star Reading/Star Math for all grade levels. We will benchmark our students at the beginning of the year and again mid-year and in April to continue to monitor progress in reading and math. Star is a computer based assessment that students will use on Chromebooks at school.

CVE Provides Individualized Education

CVE will be using Step by Step for Dibels (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) monitoring for reading and comprehension. All students in grade K-2 will be benchmarked throughout the school year for reading fluency and comprehension. This data will be used by teachers to determine what each individual student needs to work on to improve their skills. Teachers will be trained on how to best benchmark and how to best use the information it provides.

Welcome Back Students and Families

Welcome back, families! We are extremely excited to kick off the 2015-16 school year! Here are some important dates and times that will help the year get off to a smooth start. CVE will be hosting Open House on Aug. 31 at 6 p.m. We hope to see you there.

CVE students will begin class at 8 a.m. and dismiss at 2:30 p.m. The building will host all students in grades 1-4. We offer breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. and lunch for each group will be between 10:50 a.m. and 11:50 a.m. The building will be open for school drop offs beginning at 7:15 a.m. Students will report to their seats in the gym during breakfast and will report to class by 8 a.m.

Registration for new students will be available on the districts website at cvul.org. Please refer to the website for updates and information throughout the school year. CV will use One Call Now to provide updates of upcoming events by telephone on a regular basis.

We look forward to filling our halls with eager students on Sept. 1. Until then, please enjoy the rest of your summer.

You're Invited!

The Board of Education of Conotton Valley Union Local Schools conducts regular meetings at the High School on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to attend these meetings. Please contact the Administration Office in advance at (740) 269-2000 for verification.

School Board

Mr. Phil Gooding.....President
Mrs. Blanche Nign Vice-President
Mrs. Deborah Carrothers Member
Mrs. Kari Galigher Member
Mr. Chris Bower Member

Feedback Is Welcome

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, Conotton Valley Union Local Schools, 21 Mound Street PO Box 187, Sherrodsville OH 44675, or call (740) 269-2000.

Contact Us

Administration Office..... (740) 269-2000
Conotton Valley High School (740) 269-2711
Conotton Valley Elementary (740) 269-2141

Our Website Address

cvul.org



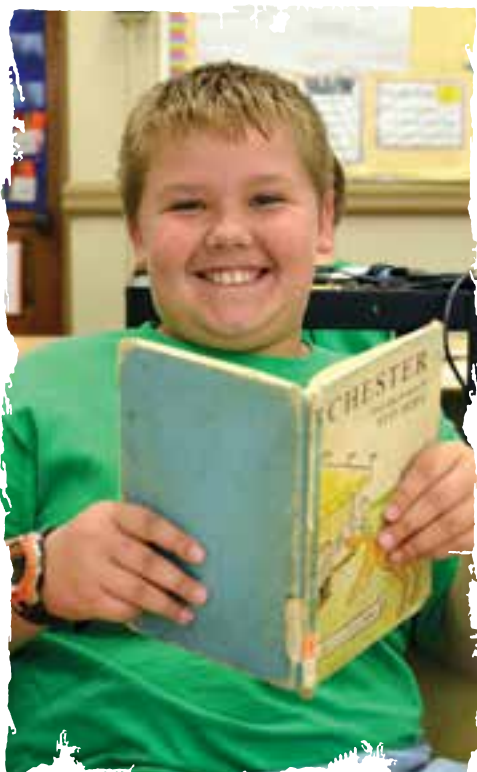
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We are excited about our schools' successes, yet will continue to work hard to make Conotton Valley Union Local School District one of the best school districts in Ohio.



We look forward to filling our schools once again with eager, smiling faces!

All-School Calendar, 2015

Aug. 25	Teacher Workday
Aug. 26	Teacher Instruction/PD
Aug. 27	Teacher Instruction/PD
Aug. 28	Teacher Instruction/PD
Aug. 31	Open House 6 p.m./Teacher Workday
Sept. 1	First Student Day
Sept. 7	No School (Labor Day)
Sept. 14	Grandparents Day
Sept. 25	No School (Teacher PD Day)
Oct. 2	First Quarter Interim Reports Sent Home
Oct. 16	No School (Teacher PD Day)
Oct. 23	End of First Quarter
Oct. 26	Second Quarter Begins
Nov. 5	Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.)
Nov. 6	No School (Teacher PD Day)
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 12	Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.)
Nov. 24	Second Quarter Interim Reports Sent Home
Nov. 25-30	No School (Thanksgiving Break)
Dec. 1	Classes Resume
Dec. 18	End of Second Quarter/First Semester
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Holiday Break