

# The Talk at Teays

NEWS FROM THE TEAYS VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## IMPORTANT DATES

### June

**28** Board of Education Meeting, 8 a.m.

### July

**29** Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### August

**12** Open Houses:  
Elem - 5:30-7 p.m.  
MS - 4:30-6 p.m.

**14** 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School -  
Preschool-Grade 9

**15** 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School -  
Grades 10-12

**23** Elem Screening -  
No School for Elem  
Students Last  
Names L-Z

**26** Elem Screening -  
No School for Elem  
Students Last  
Names A-K &  
Board of Education  
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**28** TVHS Open House,  
4-7 p.m.

### September

**2** No School

**16** No School

**19** Parent/Teacher  
Conferences @ MS

**26** Board of Education  
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

## Planning for the Future

It's summer in the Teays Valley Local School District! On May 24, Teays Valley High School graduated 308 students. Some highlights from the Class of 2024 included:

- ⇒ 134 students received the 4 year honor roll medal
- ⇒ 94 students received a Diploma with Honors
- ⇒ 31 students were designated Cum Laude, which is a earning a GPA of 3.50 to 3.74
- ⇒ 33 Students were designated as Magna Cum laude, which is earning a GPA of 3.75 to 3.99
- ⇒ 72 Students were designated as Summa Cum Laude, which is earning a GPA of 4.0 and above
- ⇒ 53 Students were National Honor Society members
- ⇒ 18 Students were World Language Honor Society members
- ⇒ 7 students earned straight A's for all four years
- ⇒ Students received more than \$691,000 in scholarships sponsored by local businesses, community members and organizations during the Senior Honors Assembly

A major focus continues to be the growth throughout the district. After the March defeat of our 96 million dollar bond issue, the district surveyed Teays Valley residents and received feedback on a path forward for our growing school district. At the May Board of Education meeting, it was shared that Teays Valley Local School District will return to the ballot in May 2025 with a revised building plan.

The plan will be to build two intermediate buildings, grades 5 and 6, on the East and West side of the district. The plan will include larger common spaces (music, art, cafeteria, office and gym space), which will allow for growth and additions to the building. The buildings will be constructed so that, in the future, we could add a 4<sup>th</sup> grade wing as growth dictates. The revised plan was a result of the feedback received by district residents and took into consideration a plan that would cost district residents less.

The district will also contribute funds to lower the cost of the plan as this plan will cost taxpayers less than the bond issue presented in March. More details will be communicated in August to community members.

Additionally, the district will develop a committee in August that will study and make recommendations for redistricting to take place in the 2025-2026 school year. It is our hope to develop a three year plan to accommodate our growing student numbers and to use all buildings efficiently. Currently, both South Bloomfield and Walnut Elementary buildings are at or over capacity. Both buildings are currently utilizing modular classrooms to accommodate growth.

An enrollment study completed in the fall of 2023 forecasted that Teays Valley would increase enrollment by approximately 80 students per school year for the next 10 years. At the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year, Teays Valley added over 150 new students, almost doubling the forecasted enrollment number. As the school district grows, there will be redistricting and changes to how the school district operates to accommodate this growth. Ultimately, more modular classrooms will be added until we have new buildings to house our students.

I encourage you to attend future sessions offered by the school district to be informed of our growth and future plans to accommodate the new growth.

Go Vikings!

Kyle Wolfe, *Superintendent*

### Board of Education

**Charles D. Morrison**, *President*

**Roxanne Davis**, *Vice President*

**Nichole Fannin, Mike France  
& Heith Good**, *Board Members*

Have a safe and enjoyable summer, Viking Nation! To keep up with all updates throughout the summer, go to [www.tvsd.us](http://www.tvsd.us) and the TV Facebook page.

## Teacher Prep Program to begin at TVHS

As we continue to strive to attract strong candidates for teaching positions throughout the district, this upcoming school year we will work to start some of our Vikings' journeys into the education field through the teacher preparation program. This yearlong program will be offered at Teays Valley High School through a partnership with Eastland-Fairfield Career Centers.

The teacher preparation program is a one-year, senior-only course offering that gives students interested in a career in education the opportunity to take their first steps into the world of education. It will introduce them to classroom management and curriculum development in the K-12 education environment. In addition to classroom learning, students will shadow professionals and participate in field experiences. While in the program, students will also have the opportunity to earn their paraprofessional certificate and take college-level coursework that will apply toward their four-year education degree should they decide to continue.

The program is not simply limited to the regular education classroom. It will give students exposure to a variety of career paths in education and a variety of grade bands. Students will get experience in general education and special education classrooms and gain experience working with related service providers, such as speech pathologists and occupational therapists.

"Like many professions, education has nationwide shortages. The educator shortage requires immediate and sustained attention to identify and implement long-term solutions to improve educator recruitment and retention," curriculum director Beth Keplar said. "Any student who is considering a career working in education and/or enjoys working with children and young adults should consider this program. That could be a student who is interested in working as an aide or someone interested in a four-year teaching degree."

An added bonus of the program is that Teays Valley will offer students who complete the program an aide position in the district. Colleges such as Otterbein, Capital and Ohio University Lancaster and Chillicothe offer online and evening classes. For students who want to get through college with little debt, they can complete the Teacher Prep program and work as an aide in a school district while completing their four-year degree. In addition, Teays Valley will guarantee any student who completes this program and obtains a teaching degree the opportunity to interview for a teaching position in the district when his/her four-year degree is complete.

"The opportunities offered to students, as well as the district, are numerous and we are excited to see its potential," Keplar said.

This course was made possible through a partnership with Eastland-Fairfield Career Centers.

"The partnership we have with the career centers is very beneficial. Eastland-Fairfield works to gain partnerships with colleges and universities that make the field experience and coursework as meaningful as possible," Keplar said. "It's also difficult to recruit teachers with the proper license to teach career-tech courses. Eastland-Fairfield helps us with recruitment and the management of these courses. Currently, our students have an opportunity to participate in Eastland-Fairfield's satellite program in Gahanna. That's a far drive and students who want to participate in extracurricular activities at TVHS have to travel back and forth each day. Being able to offer these courses on our high school campus is a huge advantage."

Currently, 17 students plan to take part in the program. If additional students are interested, they are encouraged to contact their school counselor. While this is currently simply a one year program for seniors, the district is considering making it a two-year program starting in the 2025-2026 school year, which would give juniors an opportunity to enroll as well.

The district is continually working with the career centers to bring new opportunities to our students.

"We are always interested in and looking for ways to bring more skilled trade-focused opportunities into our school," Keplar said. "If teachers, space and equipment for programs can be secured, we hope to offer additional programming in the future."

## Cell Phone Policy Changes

As you may have seen on the news recently, Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 250 in May, which requires schools across the state to enact policies limiting cell phone use by students during school hours. While each building in the district already has guidelines related to the use of cell phones during the school day, this new bill now requires the district to create a district-wide policy to limit the use of cell phones while at school. District administrators and Board of Education members are meeting to discuss and create this new policy. It will be presented and voted on during an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

This new requirement comes at a time when we have seen a rise in issues related to the use of cell phones during the school day, so plans were already in place to review cell phone guidelines prior to the upcoming school year. One change that will be rolled out for the upcoming school year will take place at TV East Middle School. East will be piloting The Yondr system, which uses a secure pouch that stores a phone and other small electronic devices, such as earbuds. All students will secure their phone in a Yondr pouch at the beginning of the school day. Students will maintain possession of their phones but will not be able to use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students will not bring the pouches home with them. They will be distributed and collected by staff each day.

"Throughout the last several years, we have seen a rise in issues related to cell phone use during the school day," superintendent Kyle Wolfe said. "While cell phones can be used as an educational tool in certain circumstances, we have found that they have become a much greater distraction and have contributed to discipline issues. Our goal is to increase student engagement while reducing discipline issues through revised policies and procedures relating to cell phone use."

Changes to guidelines related to cell phone use during the school day will be communicated to all families in the coming months.

# Preparing Students for Life after Teays Valley

Each year, the education world continues to evolve. TV administrators and teachers work to keep up with changing trends and needs of our students to be successful once they leave the halls of Teays Valley. One common misconception is that all students are encouraged to attend college after graduation. While this is a path for many students, it is not the best path for all students.

"We have found that some community members and parents believe that the only path that is shared with students is to attend college after graduation," TVHS principal Bob Griffith said. "We work to present a multitude of options for our students so they are able to make the best choice to be successful as they move beyond Teays Valley."

Each year, approximately 50% of TV students enroll in a two or four-year college after graduation. The other 50% attended the career centers, enlist in the military or enter the workforce directly.

"For the students who plan to attend college or have an interest in this path, school counselors introduce them to the courses needed and steps that should be taken to help make that plan a reality for them," Griffith said. "We also introduce a number of other options to prepare students for their next steps."

The district has a strong relationship with Eastland-Fairfield Career Center. Students are introduced to these programs as early as middle school. TVHS also has several pathways that expose students to different careers that require certain skills where students have the opportunity to earn credentials rather than college degrees. In addition, we have a partnership with Pickaway WORKS that provides opportunities for our students. There are field trips, guest speakers and career fairs that our students participate in, as well as job shadowing experiences. Through job shadows, students have the opportunity to get a feel for a day in the life of a particular profession.

A recent addition for college-bound students came when the state began funding the ACT for all junior students. It is given once yearly through these funds during the school day.

"By offering the ACT to all students, it gives them an opportunity to participate in the exam free of charge, which can be a barrier to students at times. By offering the exam at the same time gives our teachers a specific date that all juniors are taking the test and they can better prepare our students for the test, which for some can be a factor in their future plans," Griffith said.

"A question that I often receive centers around the ACT test and Teays Valley's average ACT score. What I hope community members and parents understand is that in the state of Ohio, all juniors are required to take the ACT, which is funded by the state," curriculum director Beth Keplar said. "This can be challenging because the ACT is largely an assessment for college-bound students. For the students not intending to attend college, the ACT has no value or meaning for them yet they are required to sit for the exam by the state. In addition, many colleges are now test optional and do not require an ACT score on their application."

The mean composite ACT for the state of Ohio is 18.3. Teays Valley's average score is 19.6.

"While our goal is always to perform at or above the state average in any test, we understand that many factors go into the scores that our students are receiving. We saw an increase in mean scores in all subtests of the ACT from the 2022-2023 to the 2023-2024 school year, which was a positive step forward," Keplar said.

"No matter what path our students plan to take, our goal is that they are given every opportunity they need to be successful," Griffith said.

## Transportation Updates

### **SUBSTITUTE DRIVERS NEEDED**

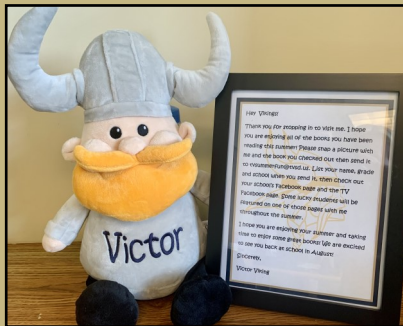
We are in immediate need of substitute bus drivers. Details:

- 30 hours of paid training required. Training is available this summer to begin driving for the upcoming school year. Training will be paid once the driver has completed 30 trips.
- \$500 stipend will be paid once the driver has completed 30 trips.
- Any and all availability is needed.
- If you are interested, contact Tracey McComb at [tmccomb@tvsd.us](mailto:tmccomb@tvsd.us).

### **PARENT TRANSPORTATION APP - STOPFINDER**

- We implemented a new parent/guardian transportation app, Stopfinder, for the 2023-24 school year. Through this app, families receive transportation schedules for their students as well as messages about individual bus routes. In order to receive this information, you must download the app and sign up for an account for your student. All families with a bus rider are encouraged to create an account because this is how the district will communicate if a route is canceled or delayed.
- An email will be sent to the primary email address listed for each student prior to the start of the school. This email will provide directions about how to create an account.
- If you have any questions, reach out to the transportation department at 740.983.5014.

## WANTED: Viking Summer Readers



Attention Viking readers! Each summer, Victor Viking makes a stop at the Floyd E. Younkin Branch Library in Ashville and the Southwest Public Library in Grove City and waits for visits from Vikings who are there to pick out some reading material. All TV students are encouraged to stop by either library to pick out books to enjoy throughout the summer.

While there, snap a picture with Victor and your books and send it to [tvsummerfun@tvsvd.us](mailto:tvsummerfun@tvsvd.us). Include the student's name, school and grade. All of the Viking readers will be featured on the TV Facebook page throughout the summer.

## Vaccination Requirements 2024-2025

School vaccination requirements are an important public health tool to aid in the prevention of vaccine preventable diseases. Vaccines can help decrease school days missed and protect students from diseases that can cause serious illness or may be life threatening. (*Ohio Department of Health Regional School Nurse Conference, spring 2019*)

Ohio Department of Health immunization requirements for school attendance according to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section 3313.67 and 3313.671 are as follows:

Kindergarten entry: 5- Dtap, 4-Polio, 3-Hepatitis B, 2-MMR and 2-Varicella

7<sup>th</sup> Grade entry: Tdap and MCV4 #1 (meningococcal conjugate vaccine)

12<sup>th</sup> Grade entry: MCV4 #2

**The 2024-2025 immunization exclusion date** is set for **September 13, 2024**. The TV nursing department asks that all student immunization records are compliant prior to that date.

~If you have questions about "The Talk at Teays" or if you would like to submit information for the next edition, contact Julie DeLisio, Director of Communications, at **740.983.5048** or at [jdellisio@tvsvd.us](mailto:jdellisio@tvsvd.us).

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