



The Walton-Verona

MIRROR

Fall Edition 2021-2022

Superintendent's Note



I would like to welcome everyone back from what I hope was a restful and relaxing summer. This year we enjoyed what may be the longest summer vacation in recent memory. Needless to say, we all needed and deserved some time to rest and recharge. We all faced numerous challenges last

year we never anticipated or wanted, and the time away with family was desperately needed by everyone.

While it once looked like the challenges associated with the COVID pandemic were a thing of the past, the last week of July and the first few of weeks of August it became apparent that we are not out of the woods quite yet. As infection and positivity rates continue to rise exponentially, we continue to face a multitude of difficult decisions. Never before has simply having students learning in the building been viewed as a significant victory. We are all striving to maintain in person learning for our students for as long as possible.

The challenges associated with the COVID pandemic are not only academic, they are also social-emotional. The isolation our children experienced during long periods of virtual instruction have proven to be very detrimental to their mental and emotional health. Because of this appreciation for

2021-2022 School Calendar

September 6	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
October 11-15	NO SCHOOL – Fall Break
November 24	NO SCHOOL – Non-Instructional Day
November 25-26	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break
December 20-January 3	NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
January 17	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Day
March 18	NO SCHOOL – Non-Instructional Day
April 11-15	NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
May 20	Last Day for Students

** NO SNOW MAKEUP DAYS – NTI will be used instead.

the importance of social-emotional learning, we are now focusing, more than ever before, not only on learning in the traditional sense, we are also focusing on the social-emotional health of our students. We understand the importance of social interaction as it is absolutely critical to a happy and healthy life, especially for children. In doing so, our challenge has become preserving opportunities for interpersonal interaction each day that our students desperately need along with the social distancing requirements that are necessary to ensure their physical safety.

Having said all of this, we remember that our core business, the reason we exist as an organization, is for teaching and learning. We continue to focus on meeting the diverse academic needs of our students and on addressing any gaps in learning that have appeared during the tumultuous previous school

(Superintendent's Note cont...)

year. This summer we offered the "Summer Blitz" program for elementary and middle school students. This popular program focused on high-interest, interactive learning experiences for our students with an emphasis on reading and math skills. In addition to traditional learning activities, we utilized several project-based learning experiences to engage our students in the learning process. According to survey data, 100% of our parents were pleased with this program and will send their children again next summer. In addition to Summer Blitz, we are planning a special ACT preparation initiative for our high school students. This initiative is currently in the planning phases and I look forward to sharing more details in the near future.

In closing, while it certainly appears that we will continue to face challenges associated with the COVID pandemic, I am absolutely certain that we can meet these challenges head-on. I am confident that there will be bumps in the road, but I am even more confident that we will work together, focus on meeting all of our students' needs and have a great With Bearcat Pride,

Matt Baker

Dr. Matt Baker
Superintendent

Important Websites

Kentucky Virtual Library www.kyvl.org

Kentucky state police sex/criminal offender registry
kspsor.state.ky.us

Kentucky Department of Education
www.education.ky.gov

Walton-Verona Independent Schools
wv.kyschools.us

The City of Walton www.cityofwalton.org

Honorary Mentions

We would like to give honor to many of our district employees who have been dedicated to our district for multiple years. These members were recognized at our district's Opening Day. We thought it noteworthy to give thanks here in "The Mirror."

- Beth Dingus – 31 years
- Karen Rodgers – 31 years
- Nancy Praither – 30 years
- Sharon Stanley – 30 years
- Debbie McNeil – 30 years
- Rodney Cheesman – 29 years
- Betty Taylor – 28 years
- Sinda Henson – 28 years
- Kyle Bennett – 26 years
- Roseann Simmons – 26 years
- Elizabeth Sisson – 26 years
- Sarah Webster – 26 years
- David Sandlin – 25 years

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all of your dedication to our Walton-Verona schools, students, and

WVES Principal's Pause

Luke Patterson, Principal

luke.patterson@wv.kyschools.us

Welcome back to another school year! It is hard to believe we are already heading into September. With this "Principal's Pause" I thought I'd get our readers who are interested in elementary news caught up to speed.

First off, I'd like to welcome all of our new staff members to our school, our district and community. Some of the names, however, may sound familiar as they are Walton-Verona alumni or long-time community members. We've added several new teachers. Nataly Woodward came all the way up from Tennessee to teach 1st-grade. Hannah Burns is a recent NKU graduate who did her student teaching here last school year – she is our new 3rd-grade teacher. And we have some new folks this year in our Special Education Department. Jesse Holten joins us from Erlanger-Elsmere and Ashley Miller, who helped us out last year as a long-term sub, is now on board permanently (she's a WV alum!). We also have two new para educators, Andrea Dennis and Patti Kennedy. We also have two new faces on our custodial staff, both WV grads – Colton Maines and Brandon Norris.

In new roles this year, Ruth Palmer has moved up to 3rd-grade from 1st-grade, Brittany Day moved to 2nd-grade from special education, Laura Robbins made the trip from Walton and the ECC to join us here where she will work with Kindergarten students with special education needs. And George Patti also made the trip from Walton over to the Verona Campus.

Our PTA is back in full swing this year. The PTA serves the school for the purpose of advancing the learning of our students and supporting the school as a whole. One of the most basic things you can do help continue this mission is by getting involved with the PTA. For \$5, you can register your family as PTA members. One of our biggest fundraisers of the year is our very popular Fall Festival, and after missing it last year because of the pandemic, it back on the calendar for Friday, September 24th. It

is a family friendly event full of teacher sponsored games, bounce houses, hayrides, food, silent auctions and much more. The PTA is also instrumental in many of the elementary school's other events such as AR Nights, Santa's Secret Shop and 4th Grade Survivor Day. The PTA also coordinates all of our volunteer efforts that go on at the school. We appreciate the all the efforts of our PTA board (President Katie Napier, Treasurer Kate Whaley, Secretary Brooke Hunt Metzger, Vice President of Events Elisa Kinmon, Vice President of Fundraising Anastasia Smothers, Vice President of Membership & Spiritwear Bridgett Collinsworth, Communications Chairperson Jodi Sullivan, Volunteer Coordinator Julie Hummel, Outreach Coordinator Racheal Gore, & Financial Secretary Jeff Webster) and its members for all they do. Our school would not function at the high level it does, without their help.

MAP testing is coming up for all 2nd through 4th grade students through September. MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) is a computerized assessment of skills in reading and math that each child takes 3 times each year. The test is an "adaptive" one meaning the difficulty level of questions varies for each child depending on what the program picks up about your child based on previously answered questions. The RIT score is the number on a scale associated with the performance of each child. This score is shared with your child and is used to form short term goals for progress before the next series of MAP tests. The teachers are also able to use this information to form skill groups, diagnose trouble/weak areas and also possibly discover gifted students. Ask your child or his/her teacher about their MAP score.

We are on our way to a wonderful year, and we truly appreciate you trusting your children to us for their education!

WVES Fall Festival
FRIDAY, SEPT. 24TH

Matters from the Middle - WVMS

Eric Morwessel, Principal

eric.morwessel@wv.kyschools.us

Follow us on Twitter @ WVMSPrincipal

2021-22 School Year Welcome back Bearcats!!!! Another school year has begun and I cannot express how happy I am to see our students, teachers, and staff back in the swing of things. We all hoped that we had put COVID behind us but unfortunately it is still here and quite possibly worse than before. I want to thank the students for wearing their masks while inside the school building; none of us like wearing them but it is the best line of defense to protect against the virus short of being vaccinated. Since over half of our students are not old enough for the vaccination then masks are our best option.

That being said, we will still be required to quarantine students who are exposed to people who test positive for the COVID virus. Please communicate with us here at the school if your child is exposed to someone with COVID in order to protect others from being infected. We are planning on providing synchronous instruction for those students who are required to quarantine due to exposure. We are awaiting delivery of some technology equipment in order to provide synchronous instruction and expect the resources to arrive within the next couple of weeks. Until then, all teachers are utilizing their Google Classrooms to keep all quarantined students up-to-date with what is going on in the classroom. Simply have your child log in to each of their Google Classrooms every day to see what work is posted and what is going on in each class daily. Once we have our synchronous instruction fully operational, we will be communicating that to all quarantined students.

My hope is to stay in person throughout the 2021-22 school year. We will make every effort to make this possible. We will need everyone's help with this, just like we did last school year. Continue to communicate exposures and infections to us promptly so we can follow protocols to keep our students and staff safe. Hopefully we can put the COVID Pandemic behind us once and for all in the very near future.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Go Bearcats!!!!

Troy Ridener, Asst. Principal

troy.ridener@wv.kyschools.us

Brianna Miller, WVMS Counselor

brianna.miller@wv.kyschools.us

Welcome with me our new staff members this 2021-2022 school year.

Stephanie Turner – 7th grade Reading



Jeff Scroggin – 7th grade Writing



Tara Rowekamp – Special Education



Highschool Highlights – WVHS

Adam Nash, Principal
adam.nash@wv.kyschools.us

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Walton-Verona High School is thrilled to welcome back all students to campus. Faced with another year of challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WVHS is comforted knowing what we learned from last year as we managed Nontraditional Instruction (NTI), Hybrid A/B scheduling, and eventually in-person learning. Building on our past knowledge and lessons learned, we were able to open school with all Walton-Verona High School students attending traditional classes. We are confident that with continued dedication to our COVID-19 protocols, dedicated mask use, and increased cleaning, we will continue to offer a traditional high school experience to all students.

As the school year progresses, please make sure you check your email and have your contact information in Infinite Campus. To prevent an overwhelming number of communications from the high school, we will send emails out for essential items. We will also be posting information on the Walton-Verona Independent School District Facebook page. In addition, Mrs. Sarah Hester, our school's Guidance Counselor, utilizes the Guidance Department Twitter account @WVHScounselor to pass along valuable information to both students and parents.

Furthermore, we are very excited to welcome five new staff members this school year. I am pleased to introduce you to the new teachers at Walton-Verona High School.

Ms. Rianna Gayheart – Business Education Teacher
Mrs. Lindsay Stephens – Math Teacher (moved from WVMS)
Ms. Katie Allen – Learning Lab Instructor
Mr. Austin Hensley – Bridge Program Assistant
Mrs. Ashley Shwanenberger – Special Education Instructional Assistant (from WVES)

We look forward to making the 2021-2022 school year a success for all students. The Walton-Verona High School administrative team is here to serve all of our students. That team includes Assistant Principal Mr. Eric Fangman, Guidance Counselor Mrs. Sarah Hester, and myself. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with one of us at the high school, and we will be happy to help in any way we can.

Eric Fangman, Asst. Principal
eric.fangman@wv.kyschools.us

Sarah Hester, WVHS Counselor
sarah.hester@wv.kyschools.us



If you have any questions or concerns, please call the high school office at (859) 485-4181 option 3 or email me at Adam.Nash@wv.kyschool.us.



WVHS Sports News

Coach Miller – Boys' Golf

Congratulations to senior Landen Lawrence for shooting an 82 in the All A Boys Regional golf tournament at Fairway Golf Course thus qualifying for the All A State Tournament on September 12th in Richmond Kentucky.

Way to go Landen!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUEST

Attention Parents: Should your child need to be absent for 5 days or more due to illness, surgery, hospital stay, or certain extenuating circumstances, please contact the school where he/she attends.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Homebound Instruction is available for students who qualify with an ailment verified in advance by a doctor. Homebound instruction allows your child to keep up with his/her school work and he/she is not counted absent while in this program.

Walton -Verona has declared its campus to be Tobacco-Free. No smoking or other use of tobacco/nicotine products is permitted on school grounds at any time. In the interest of the health and safety of our students, we ask you to serve as a role-model and help us maintain a tobacco-free environment. Thank you for your assistance.