

THE MUSTANG *Stampede*

River Valley Middle High School www.rivervalleyschools.org

Principal's Post

We have had an eventful February thus far with **WINTERFEST** kicking things off in grand fashion! Thank you to all students, parents, staff, and community members for making the week exciting and successful! My personal favorite moment was having the student body in the gymnasium as we carried on the annual tradition of the Staff vs Seniors basketball game! The students gave it their best effort but in the end, the staff came out victorious once again. The real victory is all staff reported to work the next day without any major injuries (we did have a close call with a certain Math teacher dressed as a clown getting knocked over on the court) and everyone had a great time.



The first semester has completed and we are well underway into the second semester. Just a reminder that to view your student's report card from semester one, please login to the parent portal in PowerSchool and generate the report card. You will not receive a report card in the mail unless you call the office to request one be printed and mailed home.

On the horizon, we have our second wave of **Parent-Teacher Conferences Wednesday, February 19th from 3:30 - 7:30 and Thursday, February 20th from 3:30 - 7:00 pm** at the Middle High School. Wednesday, teachers will host conferences in their classrooms and Thursday, conferences will be in the gymnasium. We will have representatives from area colleges and are working on having representatives from local labor unions and possible internships/apprenticeships stationed in the gymnasium. In addition, the March 1st FAFSA deadline is approaching so we will have individuals available to help complete the FAFSA application as well. We will also have representation from the MHS PTO if you would like to become a part of this growing group!

Finally, I want to publicly congratulate Superintendent Will Kearney on his retirement announcement. Mr. Kearney will enter his well-deserved retirement at the end of this school year. He has made a tremendous impact on the district and school community while making RV a students-first learning community. His leadership will be hard to replace. As the Board of Education embarks on the search for his replacement, the school community will have the opportunity to have an active role in the process. **A representative from The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) will gather input from the public with two public meetings. These meetings will be held in the MHS Library on Wednesday, February 19th at 6:00 pm and Wednesday, February 26th at 6:00 pm.** This is an opportunity for anyone interested to provide input in what you are looking for in the next superintendent of the district. Thank you for all of your support in making RV a wonderful place for our students!

We are RV!

Patrick Breen



River Valley

Home of the Mustangs

15480 Three Oaks Rd, Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-9541 269-426-4415 Fax 269-756-6631



THE MUSTANG Stampede

River Valley Middle High School www.rivervalleyschools.org

Æ



Æ

@cc_]b['U\YUXÅÆ

- February 21 NO SCHOOL
- February 24 NO SCHOOL
- February 26 BLOOD DRIVE
- February 26 MASB Superintendent Search Public Meeting 6:00 PM
- February 27 Pre-Festival Band Concert 7:00 P.M.
- March 3 MS Science Olympiad @ Lake Michigan College
- March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins - Set clocks ahead
- March 10 PRIDE Night (6th Grade Orientation) 6:00 P.M.
- March 12 Early Dismissal Day-Students dismissed @ 12:50 P.M.
- March 20, 21 Musical-Fiddler on the Roof 7:00 P.M.
- March 22 Musical-Fiddler on the Roof 3:00 P.M.
- March 23 Board of Education Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- March 25 District School Improvement Meeting 4:30 P.M. Library
- March 27 ½ Day for Students-Dismissed @ 10:50 A.M.
- March 31 9th Grade Field Trip to Notre Dame
- April 6-10 Spring Break



River Valley

Home of the Mustangs

15480 Three Oaks Rd, Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-9541 269-426-4415 Fax 269-756-6631



THE MUSTANG Stampede

River Valley Middle High School www.rivervalleyschools.org

Æ

7ci bgY`cf Ñj' 7cffU`Æ

Seniors (and families):

FAFSA: Is now open and should be completed ASAP!!! ALL SENIORS should complete the FAFSA! The deadline in Michigan is MARCH 1st

Please keep in mind that **Lake Michigan College (LMC) is hosting FAFSA FRIDAYS...FOR FREE!** **Next session is February 20th!!!**

"
Qp"vj g'ht w'cpf "vj kf "Ht kf c{u'lt qo "Pq xgo dgt "3"vq"Cr t kl46. "wqr 'd{ "dgy ggp"3"cpf "
7"r Q 0kp"vj g"Qpg"Uqr "vq"ur gcnlvq"NO E)u'lkpcpekcn'ckf "rt qhguikqpcnu"Vj ku'gxgpv'ku"
HTGG'c'pf "qr gp"vq"vj g'i gpgt cn'r wdrkeOP q't gi knt c vkqp 'ku't gs wkt gf 0'
"



SCHOLARSHIPS = FREE MONEY!!!

!!!SENIORS!!!

CHECK YOUR EMAIL FREQUENTLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The following are recommended websites for scholarship searches. Please remember it is up to **YOU** to search and complete scholarships:

- Bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Goingmerry.com
- Fastweb.com



River Valley

Home of the Mustangs

15480 Three Oaks Rd, Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-9541 269-426-4415 Fax 269-756-6631



Other information for seniors and families:

At this point, you should have created an account for the following **FREE** websites

- Commonapp.org - this will allow for you to apply to multiple colleges/universities from one website.
- Parchment.com - this will allow for you to request your transcripts (high school and college).
- Collegeboard.org - this will allow for you to access PSAT, SAT, and AP test scores. Also, for SCHOLARSHIPS!

*****Do NOT use your school email for the above accounts, as school emails are deactivated after graduation*****

Current Juniors & Sophomores (& Families)

Ngctp't'wcf g'bpf lqt'lnkntlj cv'eqwif'b cmg'jqw'NQVU'
QH'O QPGI @lqt'HTGG###'

There is not enough room in this newsletter to express the IMPORTANCE of CTE Programs. **NOW** is the time to start thinking about your 1st and 2nd choices!

Keep an eye out for different CTE careers posted throughout the hallways! Please take a moment to review CTE programs over Christmas Break! **PARENTS and STUDENTS, please take a moment to visit: berriencte.org**



Sophomores will have a presentation on Feb 20th during our ICE session to give them a deeper awareness into CTE and Dual Enrollment opportunities as we will begin to schedule for next school year soon!

THE MUSTANG *Stampede*

River Valley Middle High School www.rivervalleyschools.org

ALL PARENTS / STUDENTS

During parent / teacher conferences on Feb 20th from 4pm to 6pm, River Valley will have special guests here to speak with you about ANY question you may have about AFTER high school.

We will have individuals here to speak with you at your convenience, in regards to:

- College
 - FAFSA / Financial Aid / Application Process
- Military
- Workforce / Union
- Community Resources (local scholarships)

PLEASE COME AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE FREE AND VALUABLE RESOURCES ON FEB 20th FROM 4pm - 6pm

As always, please feel free to contact Mr. Shaffer with any questions:

Email: gshaffer@rivervalleyschools.org or Phone: 269-756-7613

Friendly Reminder: ALL ONLINE CLASSES END MAY 22nd

Æ

Æ

Æ

Æ



River Valley

Home of the Mustangs

15480 Three Oaks Rd, Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-9541 269-426-4415 Fax 269-756-6631



THE MUSTANG *Stampede*

River Valley Middle High School www.rivervalleyschools.org

Mustang PRIDE

For the month of February, we will be focusing on Dependability. Dependability is the fourth expectation in our PRIDE expectations. During PRIDE family time, students will discuss how to honor the RV Way by showing Dependability in all areas throughout the day.

LASSO Winners for The Month Of January: The following students were recognized for demonstrating our PRIDE expectations:

Dt k p p c 'Uej t c f g t . 'Uqrj k 'K { f q t u n k 'C L 'H q t n g t . 'C w d t k g 'J q n o c p



End of the Semester Achievement Reward

We are excited to celebrate our students who demonstrate Mustang PRIDE each and everyday with their behavior and grades! Students who achieved all As and Bs and had zero behavior referrals for the entire first semester, were invited to attend **Dr. Doolittle** at Wonderland Cinema in Niles, MI on February 13th, 2020.

Signs of Suicide Prevention Program:

During the month of February, Mrs. Kickert will be working with 7th and 10th grade PRIDE Family classes to present a lesson on depression and suicide prevention. It is our goal to become more proactive in helping students understand mental health issues and be aware of the resources available to them. In order to accomplish this, Mrs. Kickert will present the Signs of Suicide Prevention Program developed for high school and middle school students. The goals of this program are as follows:

- To help our students understand that depression is a treatable illness and help them assess whether or not they may have symptoms consistent with depression.
- To explain that suicide is a preventable tragedy that often occurs as a result of untreated depression.
- To provide students training in how to identify serious depression and potential suicidality in a friend.
- To impress upon teens that they can help themselves or a friend by taking the simple step of talking to a trusted adult about their concerns.



River Valley

Home of the Mustangs

15480 Three Oaks Rd, Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-9541 269-426-4415 Fax 269-756-6631



THE MUSTANG *Stampede*

River Valley Middle High School www.rivervalleyschools.org

We encourage you to talk with your son or daughter about this topic and information they gained during the presentation. If you have any concerns about your child, you should contact a mental health professional for a complete evaluation. If you need assistance with a referral, please contact Mrs. Kickert at ekickert@rivervalleyschools.org or 269-756-9541 ex 1034.

Student Support Groups

River Valley MHS will be offering ongoing small support groups for students who may benefit from extra support in the areas of social, emotional or behavioral functioning. Small groups will offer support to students who may be struggling with self-esteem, making friends, anxiety, depression, conflict management and peer or family stressors. If you have concerns regarding your student and would like additional support or resources, please feel free to contact Liz Kickert 269-756-9541 ex 1034 or email ekickert@rivervalleyschools.org."

Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ
Æ



River Valley

Home of the Mustangs

15480 Three Oaks Rd, Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-9541 269-426-4415 Fax 269-756-6631



River Valley has partnered with **Neighbor by Neighbor** to help spread the word about the 2020 Census!

Be Counted for Berrien's Fair Share

The U.S. Census Bureau counts each resident every 10 years and 2020 is the year. The Census count is used to get Berrien County's fair share of federal funds. It's vital that every one of us be counted. Census-based funding is used for roads, bridges, education, school lunches, Head Start, Medicare, Medicaid, children's health insurance, childcare and **many more** programs.

Based on Census projections, Berrien County is at risk of losing over \$44 million per year for 10 years ... that's \$440 million due to residents who do not complete the Census form. That's money we have today we are at risk of losing if we don't count everyone. Each household will receive a letter next spring telling us how to complete the Census. Every child and every adult in each household counts.

What can you do? Talk about the Census with your friends, neighbors and colleagues. The Berrien Community Foundation is teaming with our nonprofit partners to encourage a fair, accurate and complete count.

Everyone Counts. For more information, go to **BeCountedBerrien.org**.

See the flyer on the next page for more information!



BE COUNTED MICHIGAN 2020

THE 2020 CENSUS IS
CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO
BERRIEN COUNTY

Based on a statistical analysis of the 2010 census response rate,
we anticipate



A decline in response rate to 2020 census,
putting **\$44M** at risk in funding, annually



11,921

Households that will
require follow-up

In Berrien County, we anticipate the following challenges



22.6% HOMES
UNDERSERVED
BY BROADBAND
TECHNOLOGY
SERVICES



13.1%
OF FAMILIES
FALL BELOW
POVERTY LEVEL

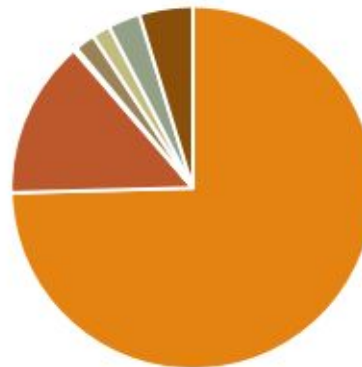
So, who's in Berrien County?



12.6% OF HOUSEHOLDS
HAVE KIDS UNDER THE
AGE OF 10



17.8% OF HOUSEHOLDS
INCLUDE SENIORS 65+



- White
- Black
- American Indian
- Asian
- Some other race
- Two or more races
- Hispanic

Data Sources: US Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates;
The George Washington University Institute of Policy's Counting for Dollars - Michigan;

