

May 2018



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

Serving People for a Lifetime.



INSIDE!

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"With yet another successful school year coming to a close, I want to take a moment and express my sincere gratitude to the school staff for the hard work they put forth in assuring our students receive the educational opportunities they do. The challenges they face day in and day out in their respective classrooms are sometimes unlike any other classroom environment. However, through the good days and some of the more challenging days, they always end with smiles on their faces. I want to wish them a very safe and restful summer!"

Superintendent Matt Purcell, Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

School's Out for Summer!

VRS Students Return to Class on Monday, Aug. 27

The 2017-2018 school year was a big one for Vern Riffe School, which saw an end to classes for the year May 23.

"The students and staff at Vern Riffe School had a wonderfully productive year full of learning and fun," said Principal Tammy Guthrie. "Many thanks to our community partners who made students' experiences this year at VRS even better, including LifePoint Church, Southern Ohio Medical Center, and Sierra's Haven for New and Used Pets."

The school served 63 students throughout the year from 10 Scioto County school districts, including seven students who were new to Cardinal Country.

Education is individualized at VRS and based on Ohio's Learning Standards, functional, and adaptive needs. Therapy staff provides related services, including speech and language pathologists, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and adaptive physical education. Students, in addition to the academic curriculum, have jobs in the classroom or within the school.

In addition to class and school activities, many students were also active in Scioto County Special Olympics, Girl Scouts, and 4-H. Be sure to check out the Girl Scouts display at the Scioto County Fair!



Vern Riffe School had no graduates this year, so we did a group photo congratulating the grads throughout Scioto County! Have a great summer, Cardinals, we'll see you back this fall.

This Year's VRS PTO Activities

- Raffle of Ohio State football game tickets
- Annual Basket Raffle
- Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's
- Wreath Raffle
- Donation from Southern Ohio Medical Center

Want to get involved? Call 740-353-1876

Calendar

FRIDAY, June 1

■ STAR: Bowling 12:30-2 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

SATURDAY, June 2

■ STAR: Yard sale 7 a.m.-2 p.m., Vern Riffe School parking lot.

TUESDAY, June 5

■ STAR: SSU exercise 12:45-2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, June 6

■ STAR: Privatization Open House 6 p.m.

■ STAR: Bowling 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

THURSDAY, June 7

■ STAR: SSU exercise 12:45-2 p.m.

FRIDAY, June 8

■ STAR: Bowling 12:30-2 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

TUESDAY, June 12

■ STAR: SSU exercise 12:45-2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, June 13

■ STAR: Bowling 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

THURSDAY, June 14

■ STAR: SSU exercise 12:45-2 p.m.

FRIDAY, June 15

■ STAR: Bowling 12:30-2 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

TUESDAY, June 19

■ STAR: SSU exercise 12:45-2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, June 20

■ STAR: Bowling 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

THURSDAY, June 22

■ STAR: SSU exercise 12:45-2 p.m.

FRIDAY, June 23

■ STAR: Birthdays of the Month party

■ STAR: Bowling 12:30-2 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

TUESDAY, June 26

■ STAR: SSU exercise 12:45-2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, June 27

■ PROJECT STIR: Bake sale at STAR, Inc.

■ PEOPLE FIRST: Meeting, 1 p.m., at STAR, Inc.

■ STAR: Bowling 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

THURSDAY, June 28

■ STAR: SSU exercise 12:45-2 p.m.

Last Troop Meeting of the School Year



Did you know Vern Riffe School hosts a Girl Scout troop? Their last meeting of the school year was Monday, May 21, in the school library. The girls celebrated their successful year and having completed their project for the Scioto County Fair, a painted bench for guests to enjoy. Troop leaders are Julie Tarr Lundy and Sandy Rayburn. Scouts include, pictured, Tristin, Angel, Maddi, Jasmine, and Dreama.



Birthdays

June 1

Savannah Whitt

June 2

Shawn Blower

June 4

Debbie Pace

June 5

Tiffany Semento

June 6

Shelley Clifford

June 7

Karen Carver

June 13

Lana Berry

June 14

Lori McNelly

June 18

Rodney Cummings

Paige Donini

Kelly Hunter

June 22

Teresa Adams

June 28

Melissa Oiler

June 29

Nakia Peters



Work Anniversaries

June 1

Alma Whitt

June 13

Carla White

June 23

Kellie Reedy

June 30

Paige Donini

Legislative Corner

HB 572/RETIREMENT CREDIT (Scherer, G., Howse, S.) Regarding Public Employees Retirement System service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Howse and Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) presented joint sponsor testimony.

Scherer said the bill makes sure certain county board of developmental disabilities employees who work through academic year receive a full year of retirement credit. He said the measure responds to a reversal of a 30-year policy that mainly impacts teacher assistants and bus assistants involved in county board of DD schools and early childhood programs.

“This legislation will require the OPERS Board to grant a full year of service credit to a

member employed as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities if the member performs full-time services in the position for at least nine months of the year and is paid earnable salary in each month of that year," he said.

Without the change, a new teacher assistant would have to work 36 years to achieve the equivalent of 30 full years of service.

Howse said the bill is needed to establish parity in the retirement service credit system. She said the estimated 1,300 impacted employees generally earn low salaries, with average pay for teacher assistants at \$9.81 per hour and average pay for bus aides at \$9.61 an hour.

Scherer said the provision was included in a prior bill dealing with cost of living adjustments, but didn't become law.

He also told Rep. Merrin the process of granting a full year of credit had been in place for many years, but auditors indicated it wasn't specifically allowed by law.

Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) asked whether those impacted by the bill would purchase additional credit to get the full year.

Scherer said there wouldn't be a purchase of service credit, adding that money that funds the benefit is already withheld from employee paychecks.

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) suggested the issue is similar to how lawmaker pensions are calculated, with members being given a full year of service credit even though there are typically no voting sessions in the summer.

Check the status of any piece of state legislation at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov>

Call ext. 34300 by 10 a.m. to get your lunch order in!

Menu subject to
change

The Lunch Box

June, 2018

Every Day at Break Time
ICE CREAM
• Small 50¢ • Medium 75¢ • Large \$1.00

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Pizza – slice \$ 1.25 1 slice Pizza & Drink 1.75 2 slices Pizza & Drink 3.00 Sub Sandwich 2.50
4 Pinto Beans w/Cornbread \$ Bologna Sandwich 2.50 Extra Cornbread 1.00 				

AVAILABLE DAILY

Sub Sandwich \$2.50

Chips 75 cents

Snack Cakes **75 cents**

Soda/Water 75 cents

Tea 50 cents

SALADS

(Ranch, Red French, Honey Mustard, Italian dressings)

Small Garden Salad \$2.00

Small Chef Salad **\$3.00**

Large Garden Salad \$4.00

Large Chef Salad **\$5.00**

**FRIDAY
PIZZA
SPECIAL**



1 Slice & Drink \$1.75

2 Slices & Drink **\$3.00**

Jacob Nele, Dreama Ruggles Named 2017-2018 Athletes of the Year

SSU Basketball Team Recognized as Volunteer of the Year

Scioto County Special Olympics honored its nearly 70 athletes at its annual banquet at the SOMC Friends Center on May 21. Jacob Nele was named Adult Athlete of the Year and Dreama Ruggles was named Student Athlete of the Year.

Volunteer of the Year recognition was given to the Shawnee State University Men's Basketball Team, who readily offer their home court as a place for Special Olympics volleyball games and the Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball Game played every March as part of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The team also runs the kids' foul-shot contest at the celebrity game and is always up for an impromptu dunking contest.

Jacob Nele is the team manager for the adult-age basketball team and was part of a small group of local athletes who attended the State

Summer Games in Columbus last June. Jacob brought multiple track and field medals back to Scioto County. Dreama Ruggles is a student at Vern Riffe School and plays on the Cardinals' basketball team. Her winning attitude, teamwork, and success in school helped make her 2018's Student Athlete of the Year.

"We are so proud of our athletes, Coach Rita Arthur, the Shawnee State Athletic Department, and all the volunteers and fans," said Scioto County Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Matt Purcell. "When we have opportunities like this to recognize these folks the way they deserve, it is important to take advantage of those opportunities with events such as this annual banquet."

Local Olympians participate in basketball, golf, track and field, and volleyball throughout southern Ohio.

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Matt Purcell
SCDD Superintendent



Scioto County Special Olympics honored local athletes and volunteers with a banquet in their honor at the Friends Community Center on Monday, May 21. Jacob Nele, pictured with Coach Rita Arthur, was named Adult Athlete of the Year, while Dreama Ruggles was named Student Athlete of the Year.



LET ME WIN
BUT IF I CANNOT WIN
LET ME BE
BRAVE *IN THE*
ATTEMPT

