

May 2019



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What is Friends of Scioto DD?

VRS graduates the Class of 2019



From left, Hailey Dillow, Dreama Ruggles, CJ Shigley, Brandon Lewis, and Dustin Adkins. Not pictured, Allison Arnett.

Vern Riffe School's Class of 2019 graduated on Friday, May 24, in a ceremony in the school gym. In attendance were family, friends, classmates, and dignitaries. Scioto County Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Matt Purcell served as keynote speaker.

The graduates were:

■ **Dustin Adkins** is the son of Vickie Adkins. Dustin resides with Darold and Janie Conklin in Luc-

asville. He participates in Scioto County Special Olympics basketball, bowling, and track. Dustin enjoys playing the keyboard, bass, and drums, and is also interested in phones, computers, and electronic games.

■ **Allison Arnett** is the daughter of Delbert and Brenda Arnett. Allison has been a student at Vern Riffe School since 2013. She has grown and learned and has

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Staff appreciation lunch is May 30 @ VRS

The annual staff appreciation event will be at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, May 30, in the Vern Riffe School gym.

Catering will be provided by The Scioto Ribber, which will offer chicken and ribs as well as a potato and green beans. Soft drinks will be provided. The program directors will serve.

In an effort to further recognize the contributions of staff on their anniversaries, a survey was sent to SCDD employees at the end of 2018 to see what would be appropriate as far as a token of appreciation from the Board. Responses included various ideas and additional PTO. Various options were discussed, and it was decided PTO time

was most appropriate for both the Board and the employees.

The Board will be offering additional PTO time to those being recognized based on years of service.

Employees who have five to 15 years of service will receive an additional day of PTO time.

Those who have 20-30 years will receive an additional 1.5 days of PTO, and those with 30 years or more service will receive two full days of additional PTO.

Years of service are determined by the calendar year. Those receiving pins Thursday had work anniversaries on or before Dec. 31, 2018.

FIVE YEARS

- Teresa Adams
- Jason Chaffin
- Carlisa Baker

10 YEARS

- Paige Donini
- Bill Pennington

20 YEARS

- Kim Miller
- Becky Mault

25 YEARS

- Cindy Coriell
- Nancy Sand

35 YEARS

- Brenda MacDonald

Board Notes

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities met at 4:45 p.m., April 18. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved renewal of the META contract for IT services at VRS and the Carousel Center.
- Received an update on upcoming renovations at VRS and Carousel Center.
- Received notification a policy is in progress for use of Narcan in the VRS and Carousel Center buildings at the discretion of the Superintendent. The policy should be available for review at May's meeting.
- Received verbal invitations to the VRS Prom on May 10, and VRS Graduation on May 24.

The Board also met at 4:45 p.m., May 16. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved two Direct Service contracts.
- Received a report from Personnel Committee Chair, and tabled discussion until next committee meeting.
- Approved allowing the Superintendent to require current Instructional Aides to obtain the "No Child Left Behind" credential which requires passing an evaluation to demonstrate knowledge and classroom ability. The Board also approved establishing a timeline for current Instructional Aides to prepare for and pass the evaluation. It was noted any new Instructional Aides would be required to obtain the credential within 90 days.
- Approved funding for a permanent wheelchair ramp for the stage in the VRS gymnasium.

The next Board meeting will be 4:45 p.m., Thursday, June 20.

Legislative Update

OACB testifies on amended state budget bill; budget analysis updated to reflect House changes

Speaking on behalf of OACB, Licking DD Superintendent Jason Umstot presented oral testimony Tuesday regarding DD-related provisions in Am. Sub. HB 166, the two-year state budget bill (download current bill language).

HB 166 was passed by the Ohio House of Representatives 85-9 last week and includes a number of changes affecting DD budget provisions. The bill is now being considered by the Ohio Senate.

Umstot's testimony addressed positive changes in the House's version of the budget (such as additional

state funds for an improved DSP wage increase) as well as areas of concern (including a duplicative NMT workgroup, inappropriate early intervention earmarks, tax issues, and other topics).

Updated Budget Analysis Available

OACB has prepared a fully updated version of its biennial budget analysis to reflect changes made by the House to HB 166. Please note that provisions removed by the House will not appear in future versions of this document unless reinserted by

the Senate.

Next Steps in Budget Process

The bill was introduced in the Ohio Senate on May 13 and referred to the full Senate Finance Committee on May 14. A full Senate vote is anticipated in early June. The differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill will be reconciled in a conference committee. Gov. DeWine must sign the budget by June 30.

*Reprinted from
OACB PolicyBrief*

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

Calendar

MAY

- 29: VRS students' end of year awards/ last day of school
- 30: VRS teachers' last day/Agencywide staff appreciation lunch

JUNE

- 20: SCDD Board meeting; 4:45 p.m., STAR Inc.

JULY

- 4: Fourth of July holiday/SCDD Closed
- 18: SCDD Board meeting; 4:45 p.m., STAR Inc.

AUGUST

- 5-10: Scioto County Fair
- 15: SCDD Board meeting; 4:45 p.m., STAR Inc.
- 19: Full-time VRS staff report
- 20-21: All VRS staff report
- 22: First day for VRS students

SEPTEMBER

- 2: Labor Day/SCDD Closed
- 13: All-Staff Training at Shawnee State University's Morris University Center



congratulations **CLASS OF 2019**



Grads

accomplished many goals. Allison has enjoyed participating in Scioto County Special Olympics, cheerleading, Girl Scouts, and 4-H. She also enjoys taking care of her doll Emily. After graduation, she plans on attending STAR, Inc. She has made many friends throughout her school years.

■ **Brandon Lewis** is the son of Laura McGlone and Michael Lewis, and the nephew of Robin Lodwick of Portsmouth. He is an avid basketball fan and enjoys bowling, as well as the great outdoors. He has participated in Scioto County Special Olympics track and field.

Brandon enjoys listening to music

and dancing, and is quite an artist with markers, and especially painting. He likes swinging outside, shooting basketball, and riding bikes in the Vern Riffe School gym.

■ **Dreama Danielle Ruggles** is the daughter of Faith and Danny Ruggles of West Portsmouth. Dreama has participated in an in-school vocational program, Girl Scouts, and Scioto County Special Olympics basketball, volleyball, bowling, and track and field. Dreama is a member of Mount Zion Church, where she also assists with their food pantry. Dreama has participated in two summer youth work experiences. She enjoys singing, karaoke, listening

to music, basketball, shopping, and helping others.

Following graduation, Dreama plans to obtain a job in the community and participate in day programming at STAR, Inc.

■ **Charles "CJ" Shigley Jr.** is the son of Chuck and Natalie Shigley of Wheelersburg. He participated in District 11 Challenger Baseball and Challenger League Bowling. He is a member of the Autism Project of Southern Ohio and the International Pentacostal Church of Christ. He enjoys video games, wrestling, music, singing, and dancing. Following graduation, CJ plans to attend a day program.

Life HAPPENS

Everyone needs an assist at some point. The goal of Friends of Scioto DD is to provide that help for people who are eligible for services at Scioto County Developmental Disabilities.

As a 501(c)3, donations to Friends of Scioto DD are tax deductible. They are used in situations when existing routes are too slow or don't apply.



www.FriendsofSciotoDD.com

