

Knighly News

Van Buren Local School
217 South Main Street
Van Buren, Ohio 45889
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Superintendent's Office — 299-3578 High School — 299-3384 Elementary — 299-3416

State Budget Cuts and What it Means for Van Buren

So much has happened in the State of Ohio in the last two months. The global pandemic has shut down schools and businesses, reports of unprecedented unemployment, statewide stay at home orders and general life as we know it has drastically changed.

In the last week, the State has reported a \$775 million shortfall for the current fiscal year through June of 2020, due to the reduced revenue from state employment and tax revenue. The governor has responded by cutting funding for a number of public agencies, with the largest cuts to K-12 Education funding. Before the end of June, K-12 school districts will absorb a funding cut of over \$300 million. The State of Ohio's Rainy Day fund is currently sitting with a balance of \$2.7 billion, it was the hope of school administrators the governor would dip into this fund to get through the shortfall for the 2020 fiscal year.

The questions regarding these cuts have been on the minds of administrators, staff, support groups, and the community as a whole. Administrators are scrambling to react to statewide decisions never experienced before. The question at the forefront of the Van Buren community is how exactly does this affect our school district and what will be our response?

State foundation funding has been a topic of conversation during the levy campaign to relay just how unique Van Buren Schools are in comparison to other districts across the state. The base foundation funding for the district is just over \$1 million. Unfortunately, there are a number of reductions to this funding mandated by the State before the funding reaches the district resulting in a negative cash flow of just over \$594,000.

The amount of funding reductions Van Buren will experience through the end of June is approximately \$274,000. This brings our negative cash flow amount to \$868,000. This reduction was reported in the news as a 2.11% reduction. \$274,000 is actually 26% of the district base revenue. The reduction amount reported in the press was based on per pupil expenditure from 2019, not based on revenue. It is my belief if there is a conversation about revenue reduction, the calculation to determine the loss of revenue should be based on revenue alone, not expenditures.

According to education state professional organizations, (OASBO, OSBA and BASA), and the Office of Management and Budget, the reductions are not anticipated to stop with the initial reduction. According to the most recent information, there will be an additional 11% reduction to be absorbed by the district starting July 1, running through June 30 of 2021. If we are to base this calculation on our current base foundation, this will be approximately an additional \$110,000 reduction.

Quick calculations for Van Buren:

\$594,000	2020 Foundation Negative Cash Flow
\$274,000	2020 Additional Reduction
\$110,000	2021 Additional Reduction
\$978,000	Total Loss to the State

This would bring the total base State foundation before reductions for 2021 to \$22,000. I asked the representative from the Ohio Department of Education how they could expect our local taxpayers to continue to support the budget of

the State of Ohio with local taxes. They pointed out again our local tax base valuation and how, based on that valuation, Van Buren is a rich district and has the ability to go back to the taxpayers to support our district through additional taxes. The clear message from the state and the term used in their recent update was Fiscal Crisis. They feel it is imperative the message of Fiscal Crisis is relayed to all community members. There are only two ways to reverse the deficit cash flow – we either increase revenues or we decrease expenses. There are some cuts slated for the 2021 school year, but it currently is not enough to reverse the deficit cash flow, especially in light of additional revenue reductions. The District will have to make some clear decisions over the next few months while continuing to implement disciplined spending. We will be watching for additional information from the State as this situation unfolds. It is my hope to continue the conversation with our local state representatives to see if there is any additional relief for the district.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Dawn Jacobs, Treasurer/CFO/SFO
djacobs@vbschools.net

VB Senior Completes Eagle Scout Project

Van Buren Senior Casey McCauley has received his Eagle Scout rank from Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of Troop 319 in Findlay. For his Eagle Scout project, Casey repaired and painted the outside of the Van Buren Music Boosters building at the Hancock County Fairgrounds.

Great Job Casey!



A Big Thank You to the Van Buren Community for all your support in passing the Levy. Our Students are our Number One Priority!

High School News

FFA News

Public Speaking

By: Audrey Marroquin, Van Buren FFA Reporter

On Thursday, February 13 many wonderful members of our FFA chapter did an excellent job at the Sub District Public Speaking Contest. We had one eighth grader, two freshmen, two sophomores, one junior, and one senior compete in the public speaking contest. For the FFA Creed, they had to memorize the Creed, present it, and answer questions: Rebecca Betts placed 13th, Lexi Camarano placed 10th, and Claire Recker placed 4th! Our sophomores Emma Henry and Morgan De-Boo, who wrote speeches of their choices and memorized and presented them also did well placing 4th and 7th. Emma's speech was about Bees, while Morgan's speech was about Women in Agriculture. Calista Greer also wrote and memorized a speech and placed 2nd. Calista's speech was about the Impact of Agriculture. Mikaela Voland who competed in extemporaneous speaking, where she drew a topic and had 30 minutes to write a speech, placed second as well.



Van Buren High School/Middle School Guidance - Mr. Zender

- Any student who has to complete class credit work before next year needs to contact Mr. Zender by June 5 for make-up work information.
- Seniors must notify Mr. Zender by email if they would like their final transcript sent to a college. Those students on the 'Draft Board' will already be sent and no need to contact the guidance office.
- All senior final transcripts may be received by emailing the guidance office for one in return until June 5.
- Schedules will be sent out at the end of May for next year as a virtual 'Bump Up Day'. Any schedule changes should be emailed to Mr. Zender by the end of June.
- Guidance office summer days will be limited this year with hours from 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM from June 1 until June 5.
- College CCP classes for the fall need to be scheduled as soon as it can be done. Students should contact Mr. Zender to finalize their schedule of classes at Van Buren. Also, email Mr. Zender any fall CCP classes scheduled over the summer for the fall.
- Any student who needs to contact Mr. Zender over the summer should use his school email.

Canned Food Drive

By: Audrey Marroquin, Van Buren FFA Reporter

On December 20, the Van Buren FFA, with the help of the Liberty Benton FFA Chapter and the Van Buren Lions Club, was able to collect 1,000 cans of goods for the Van Buren Food Pantry and City Mission. The Officer Team and members are extremely grateful for the participation of our chapter members, the Liberty Benton Chapter, and the community members who donated at a Van Buren basketball game (before everything changed). We hope this will be just the beginning of our community services, and are excited to involve ourselves more in our community through more donations and events. Thank you Mayor May for wanting us to help with this opportunity.



Ag Sales Team

By: Audrey Marroquin, Van Buren FFA Reporter

On Tuesday, February 11, the Van Buren Ag Sales team did an excellent job at the district contest and placed 3rd! The Ag Sales team included Malia Gehrisch, Jillian Walters, Catheryn Roy, and Carter Thomas this year. We are especially proud of these members for their hard work on this contest because of the recently changed rules and small amount of practice time due to the winter weather. For this contest, they were given a product and had to work as a team to come up with a sales pitch. From there, they sold their products individually. We are proud of all their hard work.



VANTAGE News

Van Buren's VANTAGE students continued problem-solving and challenging themselves through online weekly STEM challenges. Some challenges became a family event involving parents and siblings.

Egg Drop: Students designed a system to protect an egg from cracking or breaking from a high fall.

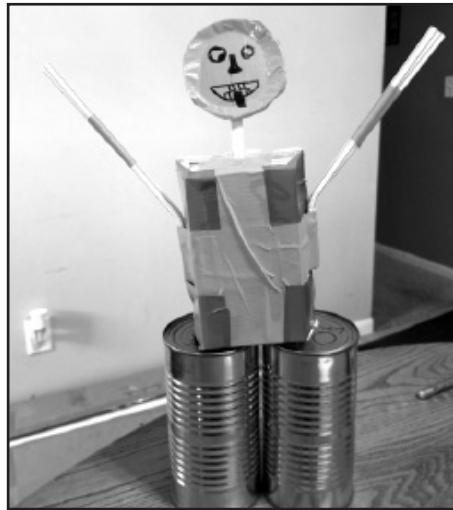


Carrot Carriage: Students designed a sweet new ride for the Easter Bunny made primarily of carrots. Their vehicle had to travel down a small ramp they constructed.



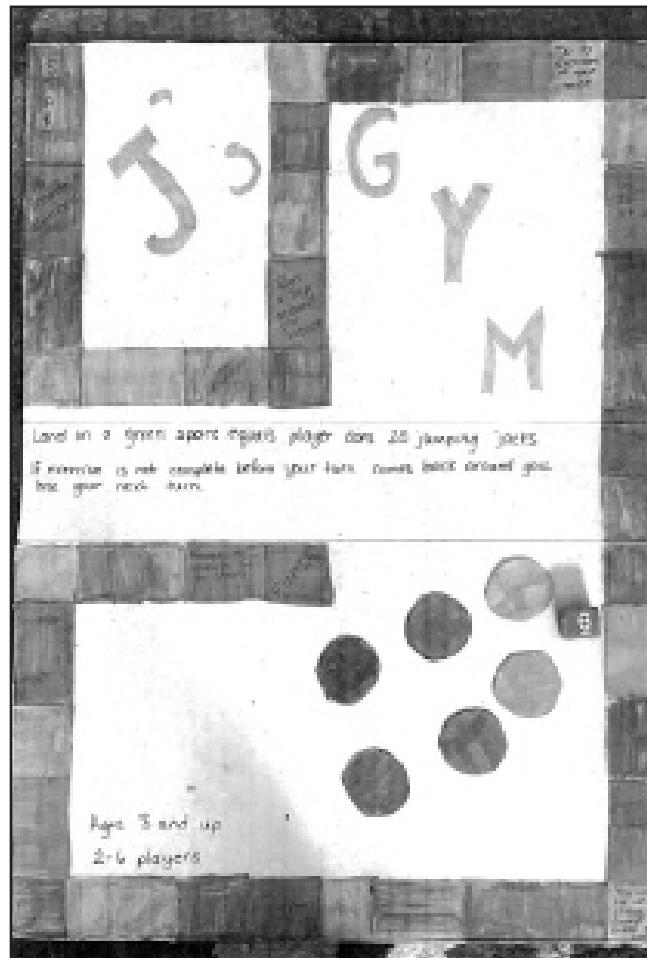
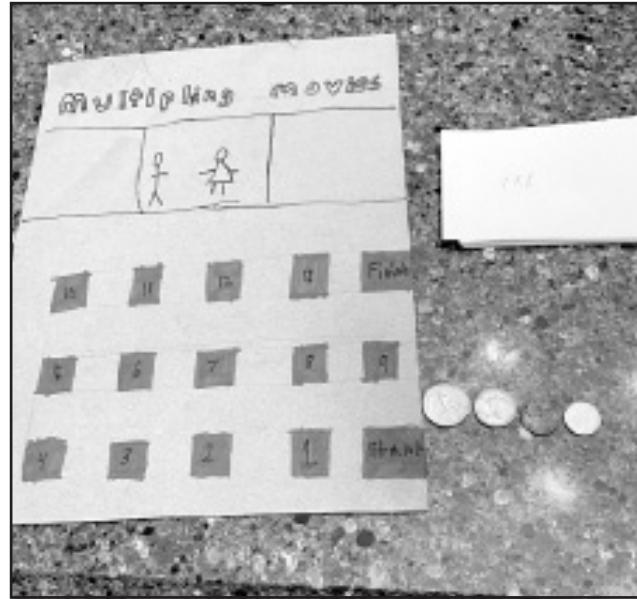
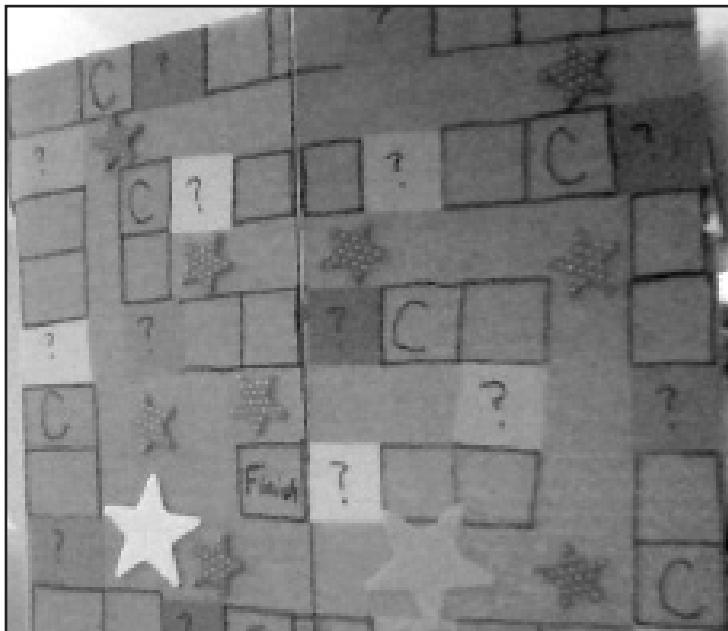
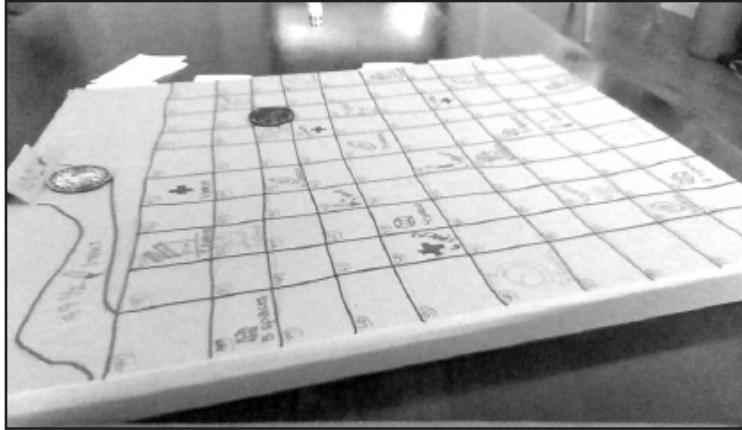
VANTAGE News

Earth Day Rubbish Monster: For Earth Day, students learned about the history of Earth Day, shared some ideas about what they could do to protect our environment, and then designed a Rubbish Monster out of recycled goods from their household.



VANTAGE News

Family Game: Students designed Family Board Games with clear written directions, precise objectives, and creative board designs and game pieces! Some students took it to a different level and created new outdoor games for their family!



MAKE A BOARD GAME

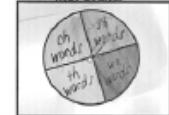
What to write in your game squares:

- LETTERS
- SHAPES
- COLORS
- NUMBERS
- WORDS
- ADDITION FACTS
- SUBTRACTION FACTS

Roll die, move piece, and name a word that starts with that letter.



Use a paperclip and pencil to spin the spinner. Name a word that starts with that sound.



Roll die, move piece, and count out that number of counters.

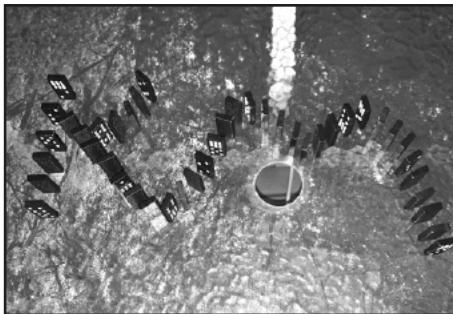
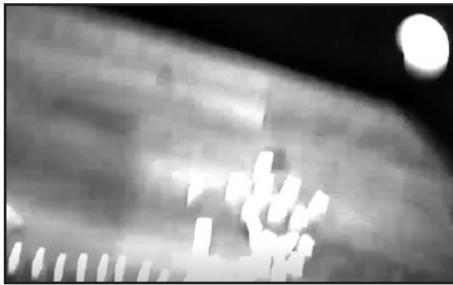
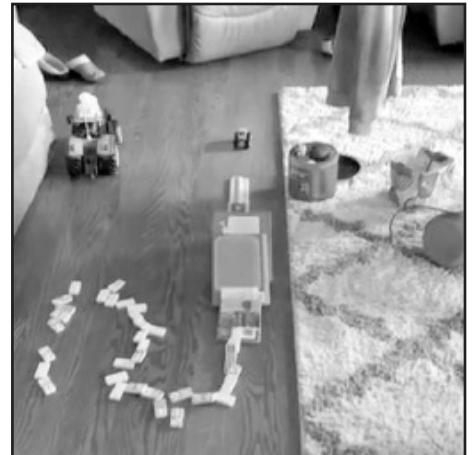


Roll die, move piece, and solve the addition fact.



VANTAGE News

Chain Reaction: Students imagined and designed a Chain Reaction out of simple materials around their house such as Dominoes, Legos, toy cars, mini cups, balls, marbles, wooden planks, spools... Some Reactions had a specific task and some were just for fun! The best part of this challenge was the “Bloopers” videos they shared!



VANTAGE News

Elementary News

The 5th grade VANTAGE students are eager to begin their Toothpick Bridge Project. Mrs. Ohlrich delivered their supplies directly to their door so this tradition could continue!



Kindergarten 2020-2021 Information and Registration Now Available Online

Since Kindergarten screening was canceled and we are unable to reschedule; we are going to do some of this virtually. We will be doing some of the screening activities during the required KRA (kindergarten readiness assessment) that we schedule for the kindergarten students during the first week of school (more info will be mailed later in the summer closer to the start of the year when we have more details).

You can send us the necessary documents for registration by uploading when registering using our online system, OneView. This includes birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residency. If your student attended VB PreK this year all I will need to be uploaded in OneView is proof of residency.

To register online using OneView follow the link found on our website www.vbschools.net. Create an account and follow the instructions to register your child. Current PreK students coming to kindergarten at VB will only need to update their info using their existing OneView account. You will need to access OneView on an actual computer versus a mobile device.

We have several documents to use over the summer and also answer any questions about immunizations and proof of residency requirement that can be found on our website.

Thanks for your patience and understanding during this odd time, and please submit by June 1, 2020!

Thanks and stay healthy!

Hancock County Toll-Free Crisis Hotline 1-888-936-7116

Do you or someone you know need help, need to talk, or feel stressed? Please call 1-888-936-7116, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is a toll-free crisis hotline number.

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POSTAL CUSTOMER RR 082

**First Day of the 2020-2021
School Year for Students is
Tuesday, September 8, 2020.**

The Van Buren Administration would like to thank the Van Buren teachers, staff, students, parents, and community for all working together to finish this school year. It shows that we are all One Team here to Create the Van Buren Experience by Empowering All!

Please stay safe and healthy!

Van Buren Board of Education:

Mr. Mike Leifheit, President
Mr. Jeff Salisbury, Vice President
Mr. Jim Griffith
Ms. Kim Thomas
Ms. Melinda Williams

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

2 LOCATIONS

GLENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL 1715 NORTH MAIN ST. (behind building)
LINCOLN ELEMENTARY 200 W. LINCOLN ST. (along the street)

FREE FOR CHILDREN AGES 1 YR. – 18 YRS (No Adult meals)

Monday and Wednesday Pick Up from 11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

MONDAY: 2 breakfasts/2 lunches. WEDNESDAY: 3 breakfasts/3 lunches

A FUN ACTIVITY PACKET WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE HOME

BEGINNING MAY 27 – July 31

*Lunch Program presented by Findlay City Schools and
Hancock County Family and Children First Council*

QUESTIONS? 419-424-7073 / 419-420-7014



This institution is an equal opportunity provider

www.vbschools.net