



The Wigwam

Southern Local School District Newsletter

Fall Edition 2018

New SL Superintendent Shares Outlook

After three months on the job as superintendent of Southern Local Schools, Tom Cunningham is settling into his role and has an eye on the future that will give students great advantages to attain success.

Cunningham has met with administrators and teachers to look at a variety of measures, from reinforcing positive behaviors to refining the quality of the curriculum to benefit the estimated 950 students in grades PreK-12.

"We've talked a lot about engaging students and working on reinforcing positives in academics, athletics and extracurricular activities, as well as with the staff and employees," Cunningham said. "Everybody makes a difference 24/7, whether its students or teachers. We ought to set the bar higher, and by reinforcing the positives and encouraging people we can set our expectations higher."

Officials plan to look at increasing the number of Advanced Placement courses and instituting more project-based learn-



Superintendent Tom Cunningham

ing. For the latter, teachers would act as facilitators and the aim is to be more progressive when it comes to education.

"We want the kids to talk about their classes at home. I want us to think outside

the box and be innovative; I want teachers to try things they've not tried in the past to get students thinking creatively," Cunningham continued. "I'd also want to look at being more creative [with student projects] with videos, speeches and presentations about what they've learned. I think the biggest thing is to get people to look outside the box at the bigger picture and to be at the forefront of having a well-rounded child."

Another idea is to implement an internship for high school seniors during the second semester so students could shadow fields of interest as they seek their own career paths. Plans are to utilize Language Arts classes for the project so students could spend two or three days at their respective sites. Leaders are seeking community businesses to partner in the venture and future goals are to eventually include juniors in the internships.

For more information, contact Cunningham at (330) 679-2343, Ext. 4004.

Coach Shansky Honored for 600th Career Win

Southern Local High School volleyball coach Robert Shansky was honored for more than 600 wins, highlighting a storied career that is far from over.

Shansky, who has been coaching for 43 years, was surprised with a plaque from Southern Local Superintendent Tom Cunningham and Assistant Principal Ron Sines who praised him for his milestone and his dedication to the sport and school.

"I have a lot of respect for him and what he's done for the kids," said Cunningham.

Sines touted Shansky's work with athletics and said he did plenty of work behind the scenes.

"What he does with the entire athletic department is impressive. He puts in a lot of time and we really appreciate it."

Shansky's journey began when he was teaching at East Liverpool High School, where he recalled being tapped for the role.

(Continued on Back as SHANSKY)



Southern Local High School volleyball coach Robert Shansky, center, was honored for his 600th career win by Assistant Principal Ron Sines, left, and Superintendent Tom Cunningham.



Volunteers at Clayton High School in North Carolina unload items donated by Southern Local and Wellsville High Schools to assist with relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Florence.

Mission Accomplished

SL Teams with Wellsville, NC School to Aid Disaster Relief

An impromptu collection for relief efforts in North Carolina came to fruition after thousands of items made their way to help those affected by Hurricane Florence.

Non-perishable food, water, cleaning supplies and even some clothing were packed into a trailer and hauled to Clayton High School in Clayton, N.C., Sept. 22 to provide assistance to the droves of Tarheel State residents who sustained damage to or even lost their homes and belongings in the fierce storm. The goods were gathered at both Southern Local and Wellsville High Schools when teachers and sisters Jody Lockhart and Robin Weeda decided to make a difference.

Lockhart recalled being inspired after watching the tragedy unfold on the television news, saying it moved her to take action.

"The idea of collecting for the victims of Hurricane Florence came to me early on a Saturday morning while watching the news," she said. "I contacted my sister, who is a teacher at Wellsville, and asked her if she thought we could pull something off between the two schools," she explained. "She agreed and we contacted both superintendents to get permission to include the schools in a drive. The next step was to get the communities involved, so we reached out to the local churches and fire department. It was amazing to see the support that come in through the community!"

The people responded in kind and the women's classrooms were soon being filled with everything from bottled water and canned goods to paper towels, bleach, socks and underwear. Lockhart also recalled getting Flex Seal spray, two walkers and a spin mop to help those in need.

But the next challenge lay ahead of them, which was to find a contact point in North Carolina to send the contributions. Lockhart said an acquaintance knew people living in Pender County, N.C., which was hit hard by the storm, and the goal was to donate the items there. Fate stepped in once again when Lockhart located Clayton High School in Johnston County, N.C., which was serendipitously conducting a drive for the exact same items.

"We started a network where our people reach out to people down there. I started searching websites and [Clayton High School] had a list posted. There were so many itty, bitty coincidences that happened."

Following an exchange of emails and phone calls with Tracy Vannurden, principal's assistant, and Principal Bennett Jones, plans were put into place for the drop site. The next hurdle was transporting the items, but Good Samaritan Mike Johnson—a friend of fellow SLHS teacher Emily Bowling—volunteered for the task. Lin

(Continued as MISSION)

From the Principal's Desk

By
Tony
DelBoccio



As we begin the second quarter, we are implementing different interventions for all content areas.

We prefer to be proactive in developing students within all content areas. We have started utilizing "Study Island" that will assist in progress monitoring our students and provide remediation to enhance comprehension.

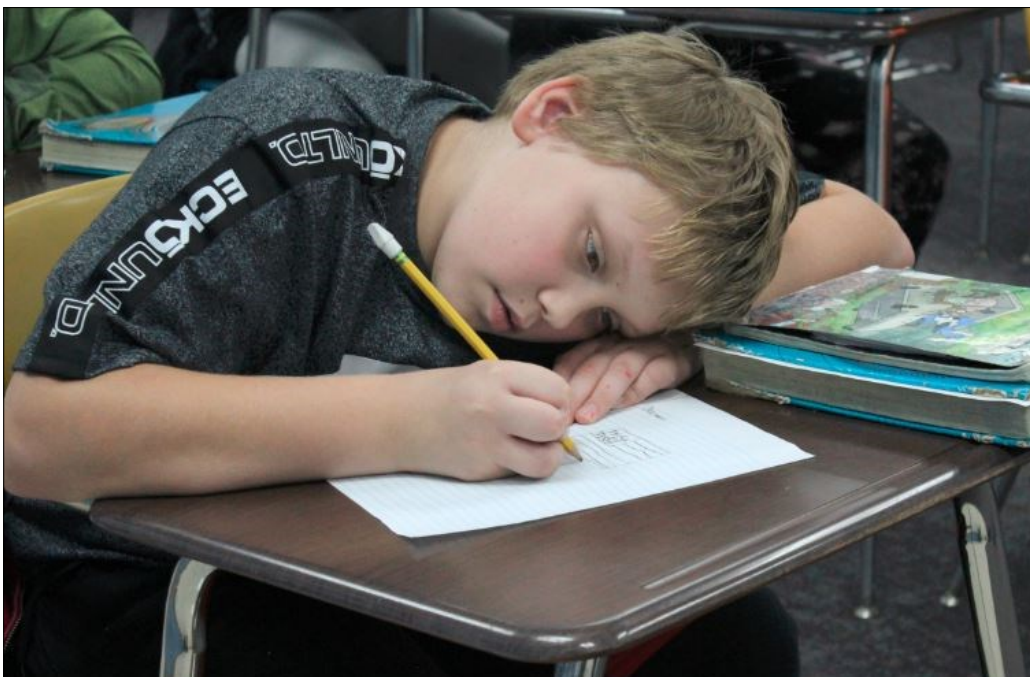
We, the administration and guidance, have also started utilizing the "Remind App." We will use this app to communicate important information and dates. The information is listed below. As always, if you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or stop in!

Remind App:

1. Freshmen Class text @a98769 to 81010
2. Sophomore Class text @76db2 to 81010
3. Junior Class text @8khfd2 to 81010
4. Senior Class text @3d247e to 81010

IMPORTANT DATES:

Driver's Ed: Nov. 5-15
PBIS Reward Day: Nov. 9
Veterans Day Assembly: Nov. 12
Sadie Hawkins Dance: Nov. 16 (possibly)
Waiver Day: Nov. 27
Speaker for Grades 7-12: Nov. 28



Students at Southern Local Elementary are writing notes to thank veterans for their bravery and sacrifice which will be distributed during a Veterans Honor Flight from Columbus to Washington, D.C., on Nov. 11. Pictured is sixth-grader Gavin Davis creating a flag with his letter.

SLES Students are Thanking Veterans

Students at Southern Local Elementary School are thanking veterans for their sacrifices in the name of freedom through a unique program.

Pupils in grades 2-6 are creating cards for the Veterans Honor Flights program, in which corporations and organizations sponsor free flights for veterans of World War II through Vietnam to visit Washington, D.C., each Nov. 11. More than 200,000 veterans from across the country have been transported to our nation's capital since 2005 and one flight is expected to depart from Columbus this Veteran's Day. When an estimated 90 past soldiers and sailors board for the trek, they will receive handwritten letters and cards from SLES students as a token of appreciation.

Hammondsville resident and Veterans Honor Flights supporter Tonda Bratt asked the school to assist in the project and school leaders were more than happy to help.

"They added a flight and I'd been familiar [with the program]," she said. "One feature on the flights is a mail call, and each veteran typically gets letters from state representatives and family. It's a surprise for the veterans when they get on the plane and I set it up exclusively

for Southern Local because I wanted this flight to [include mail] from one specific school in Ohio. Students are learning to write letters scholastically and at the same time they can draw flags. I thought it was more meaningful for it to come from one specific area."

More than 90 letters and cards are being created for the upcoming flight, which will depart on Southwest Airlines for the daylong trip.

While in Washington, the veterans will visit memorials and remember their part in defending the country. Funding for the flights are provided by grateful Americans, including major corporations and other groups. Bratt said she wanted Southern Local to be part of the experience.

"I thought what a nice opportunity for Southern Local kids, and because I live in the Southern Local School District it was my starting point."

Her goal is to provide a learning experience for students to reflect on their freedoms and the sacrifices veterans made to make that possible.

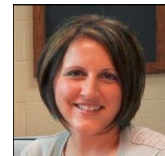
Meanwhile, SLES Principal Kristy Sampson was pleased to have the school involved and said it also built connections between the school and the community.

"I thought what a nice opportunity for Southern Local kids, and because I live in the Southern Local School District it was my starting point."

-Organizer Tonda Bratt

Class Notes

***By
Kristy
Sampson***



As we move into the second nine weeks of school, the elementary is continuing to focus on the "7 Habits" developed by Steven Covey.

Our staff completed a book study in the spring and has been introducing students to the first few habits: "Be Pro-active," "Begin with the End in Mind," "Put First Things First" and "Think Win-Win." Students are focusing on personal goals and demonstrating leadership skills throughout their learning process. They will also be working with Miss Kimberly Adams in art class on a project to display our students' unique personalities on the outside of the building. Our rock garden will be displayed this spring and the 7 Habits can also be enforced at home. We encourage all of you to positively influence the student in your life to do their best!

DATES OF NOTE:

**SLES Candle Sale:
Nov. 1-16**

**Thanksgiving Break:
Nov. 21-27**

**Camp Fitch for Fifth
Grade: Nov. 28-30**

**PTO Santa's Workshop:
Dec. 3-7**

**Christmas Break:
Dec. 20-Jan. 1**

SHANSKY

(Continued from Front)

"It was my second year of teaching and [then-ELHS Principal] John Weaver told me it was my job now. It was a relatively new sport at the high school and I had a college course in it," he said.

He commented that the game was vastly different than with only a 12-game season and different rules. Today, teams play 22 games and the sport is much more competitive. During his time at ELHS, his coaching would bring success to the school and his teams garnered a staggering 514 wins by the time he joined Southern Local in 2014.

That momentum continued in Indian Territory with Southern Local teams racking up more than 80 wins and other honors, including two ITCL championships, three EOAC titles and two OVAC Division II-A wins in a row. SLHS has also ranked as high as eighth through the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches' Association and earned district

runner-up and sectional championship titles over the past three years.

But he still keeps tabs on former players through social media and recalled an alumni game during his final year at East Liverpool which brought back many of his past athletes. Shansky has even made the sport a family affair by coaching his five daughters or having them assist with coaching or another capacity, plus his wife Ann has kept the scorebook. He was proud to see a dozen former players move on to play in college, including recent SLHS grad Lizzie Willis who is at Notre Dame College near Cleveland, while others have gone on to become coaches themselves.

"I'm just happy that I've had the opportunity and volleyball is a great tradition. The kids are very hardworking and it's been nice to continue," he said. "I've had outstanding coaches over the years and I can't do any-

thing without my family's support. When you've been in it as long as I have, you meet so many people along the way who are so helpful."

Shansky said he has honed his coaching skills by watching others, adding that the biggest compliment a coach can receive is when someone copies his or her move or play.

In addition to coaching, he acts as athletic director and also teaches three courses at the high school. Shansky praised the staff and administration at Southern, noting he had a great working relationship with them.

When asked if he will continue, he said he plans to remain active for as long as possible.

"It's been a thrill," he concluded. "It's been a great road, a long road. [I will continue] as long as I love what I do. I have been very fortunate."

MISSION

(Continued from Page 2)

coln Rental of Lisbon donated the trailer and volunteers gathered on a Saturday morning to fill it up. One load was packed at the Highlandtown Volunteer Fire Department with the second at WHS.

From there, Johnson made the trek to Clayton's Comet Country. The journey took roughly 10 hours since the trailer was weighted down with the heavy haul, but he managed to return to Ohio in only eight hours with an empty load. Meanwhile, Clayton school officials transported the contributions to neighboring Pender County but also provided Johnson with Comet hats and bracelets in a show of appreciation for the schools' partnership.

More donations were accepted for two weeks and the remaining items were donated to Martin MacLean Altmeyer Funeral Home in Calcutta for its own relief campaign, while funding contributions were forwarded to further assist the disaster victims. Lockhart thanked everyone involved for helping to make the collection a success.

"My sister and I thought we had an overwhelming response in donations from the community and schools," she said. "It was a lot of work and time trying to get everything organized. I want to thank everyone who helped and/or donated. If I felt the strong urge to help like I did last time, I would do it again."

Pictured at top: Volunteers loaded a trailer with supplies following a successful campaign at Southern Local and Wellsville high schools to assist victims of Hurricane Florence in North Carolina. Non-perishable food, water, cleaning supplies and some clothing were gathered at the schools and in local facilities and groups gathered at Inverness Hall in Highlandtown and WHS on Sept. 22 to fill a trailer donated by Lincoln Rental of Lisbon. Bottom: Volunteer Mike Johnson transported the goods to Clayton High School in Clayton, N.C., which was holding its own benefit and all of the items were sent to a neighboring county hit hard by the storm.

