



Superintendent's Update June 2022



1 - Dr. Johnny Branch, Superintendent

Mingo County School District

Office of the Superintendent - Dr. Johnny Branch

This communication is intended for all school administrators, professional and service employees, and is public to any stakeholders, including families and community members. The update is to provide current information regarding district news and operations, and matters requiring attention by our schools.

A Message from Superintendent Branch

The 2021-2022 school year is drawing to a close. This year has been one of challenges, as our teachers have worked diligently to address the learning loss from the pandemic remote learning. Our students had to reacclimate to learning in the actual classroom, and our service staff continued to valiantly respond to the needs of all in our learning communities. Our families also need to be commended for their partnership, which is essential to providing guidance and quality education for our learners.

Another important area of focus has been the social-emotional and mental wellness of our students and staff. The long months of quarantines and remote learning stressed the personal connections we may have taken for granted before COVID. Some have experienced loss on a much greater scale. All of this affects how we interact with one another and how we respond to our own experiences. Our partnering behavioral and mental health providers, as well as our administrators, counselors, teachers, and other staff, provided supports to our learning family and found that creating a supportive environment meant it was necessary to more deeply understand how our students have been affected by these past two years. Our recent school climate survey gave students, staff, and families an opportunity to communicate how they felt about a variety of factors that affect the well-being of all members of our learning family. This input will directly affect strategic changes to improve safety and the overall school environment.

Normalcy is what we all wish we could get back to. We had no control over the arrival of the virus and no choice other than to learn how to strive and survive. Now, it is most important that we emerge as a learning community that is focused on making school work best for the success of our students. This means providing effective support for our staff, developing prioritized standards-based curriculum, implementing research-based practices, and providing instruction that is centered on the learner and their unique needs. We must also provide other opportunities for growth and creativity and welcome families back into our schools.

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the next, I wish to express gratitude to the members of the Board of Education for leadership in a difficult time, and acknowledgement to the district office staff and school administrators for their commitment to making school work, under the most trying of circumstances. I wish to express admiration for our professional staff for their dedication to the success of our students, and thank our service staff for going above and beyond. I also want to provide assurance to our students and families that we will do everything possible to give them schools they can be proud of.

Red Carpet Awards



Mingo County School District has begun recognizing professionals, service staff, and students for positive contributions to their learning communities. Superintendent, Dr. Johnny Branch, explains the award is the district response to the difficult challenges students and staff have faced during the pandemic years, and have worked to overcome. "Sometimes, it just feels good to know someone notices what you do, or what you are working on. I've asked principals to send me nominations for this honor. There are so many who are deserving, and I wish we could honor all of them, in one place, and at the same time. Nevertheless, we will go school by school, as often as we can, and recognize our most valuable treasure... our students and staff."



2 - Williamson PK-8 Title I Teacher Cecilia Lynn Barker



3 - Tug Valley High School Student Cassidy Griffey



4 - Tug Valley High School Teacher Eric Starr



5 - Matewan PK-8 Teacher's Aide Cecilia Staten



6 - Matewan PK-8 Speech Pathologist Tondra Elkins



7 - Gilbert PK-8 School Nurses



8 - Mingo Central High School Teacher Crystal Ramey



9 - Williamson PK-8 Teacher's Aide Vicki Fraley



10 - Burch PK-8 Student Macey Farley



11 - Burch PK-8 Teacher Sherrie Spence



12 - Mingo Central High School Cooks



13 - Lenore PK-8 School Custodian James Napier



14 - Lenore PK-8 Student Donald Dean



15 - Lenore PK-8 Title I Teacher Tammy Runyon



16 - Mingo Central High School Student Christinna Wiles



17 - Burch PK-8 Teacher's Aide Kelli Curry



18 - Dingess Elementary Student Izzabella Thompson



19 - Dingess Elementary Teacher Jessica May



20 - Gilbert PK-8 School Cooks



21 - Tug Valley High School Secretary Lisa Kiser



22 - Burch PK-8 School Cooks



23 - Mingo High School Custodian Jonathan Dove



24 - Matewan PK-8 School Cooks



25 - Lenore PK-8 School Cooks



26 - Williamson PK-8 Student Draven Donahoe



27 - Williamson PK-8 School Cooks



28 - Kermit PK-8 School Cooks



29 - Burch PK-8 School Secretary Bobbie Perkins



30 - Dingess Elementary School Cooks

Spotlight on Success



Early College Academy

Twelve Students from Mingo Central and Tug Valley High Schools completed the first cohort year of the Mingo Early College Academy, a collaboration between Southern WV Community and Technical College and the Mingo County School District. Students who complete two years in ECA have an opportunity to earn an associate's degree in University Transfer, or general studies courses. Students attend classes on the Williamson campus of SWVCTC Monday through Thursday mornings and return to their high schools for more course work. This spring, two Tug Valley students, Cassidy Griffey and Ethan Colegrove, each earned two associate degrees before walking across their high school graduation stage. The cohort for next school year has grown to more than 20 students, with some of those students enrolled in the Mingo County pilot program of "Grow Your Own", a teacher preparatory program designed to return students to Mingo County as teachers, within two to three years of graduating high school.



31 - Early College Academy students on their first day of college!



32 - ECA students with Southern President, Dr. Pamela Alderman.



33 - Cassidy Griffey and Ethan Colegrove, Tug Valley students, each earned two associate's degrees through the Early College Academy.

Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB)

Mingo Central High School and Tug Valley High School will have several teachers and students attending the SREB Conference in Grapevine, Texas in July 2022. Mingo Central teachers and administrators, Tug Valley teachers, and two students from Mingo Central will be presenting while attending the conference.

Liberty Justice, 2022 graduate of Mingo Central High School, will participate in a panel discussion on Entrepreneurship; Ms. Justice owns her own bakery business. Ragan Marcum, 2022 graduate of Mingo Central High School, will present her Simulated Workplace Leadership Project on Animal Shelters.

Marcella Charles-Casto will be accepting, on behalf of Mingo Central High School, the *Gene Bottoms Pacesetter Award*. The award recognizes CTE Centers that are outstanding in the United States.

Mingo Central staff members Marcella Charles-Casto, Brandon Cline, Lauren Copley, and Teresa Cline will be presenting on "*Getting Rid of the Traditional Classroom With Simulated Workplace*". They will share how they overcame the struggles of a traditional mindset to empower their students to own the learning experience and provide new pathways.

Tug Valley staff members Steven Alley, Amy Salmons, and Marie White will be presenting on *Math Students Seesaw the Importance of Learning*. This session will discuss how to transform the classroom into one in which the students can embrace the power of their own mistakes and use the struggle to become a better math student. In addition to presenting in a session setting, they will be participating in a panel discussion about this new standards focused changed to the classroom.



34 - The Mingo County Board of Education recognized Mingo Central High School for its selection by SREB as a *Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School* at the May regular board meeting.

Tug Valley High School Academic Showdown Team



35 - TVHS Academic Showdown Team.



36 - TVHS Academic Showdown Team ready for competition.

The Academic Showdown Team is a group of students who compete against other high schools in West Virginia during the school year in both regional and state championship competitions. In the competitions, students are asked questions ranging from history, science, geography, math, English, and current events to name only a few. This year our team won the Region 1 championship and competed in Charleston for the state title.

Team members:

- Ethan Colegrove
- Cassidy Griffey
- Evan Maynard
- Braydan Goff
- Karlie Carter
- Megan Griffey

Camp Success 2022

Camp Success will begin on June 21st. Camp Success will run for 9 days (June 21st - July 1st). The camp will focus on learning recovery and enrichment in reading, math, and science.

During Camp Success, Exact Path Diagnostic Number 4 will be administered to all students in attendance. Math will be administered on Thursday, June 30th and Reading will be administered on July 1st. The Language Arts portion of Exact Path will not be administered during Camp Success.

Efforts are in place to continue the Backpack Program for students with food insecurity during Camp Success and Summer School. Please contact Christie Tilley or Kay Maynard with any questions.

High School Summer School 2022

Summer school for High School will take place June 21st - July 15th.

The hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for students.

Meals and transportation will be provided.

Students who have course failures are strongly urged to attend in order to stay on track for their graduation date.

Efforts are in place to continue the Backpack Program for students with food insecurity during Camp Success and Summer School. Please contact Christie Tilley or Kay Maynard with any questions.

For Our Employees

Certificate Renewal

All teachers who need to renew their teaching certificate or permit need to do so by the end of June 2022. If a teacher has not already renewed or talked with HR about their options, they need to complete the proper renewal application or contact HR as soon as possible. WV State Law prohibits counties from employing teachers who are not properly certified or permitted.

Coaches AED/CPR Training

All coaches, whether professional (teachers) or citizen coaches, are required to have current AED/CPR training. Tonya Hagy will be providing the training for the 2022-2023 school year. The schedule is as follows: 6/6/22 10 a.m. at District Office in the First Floor Conference Room; 6/8/22 1 p.m. in the Media Center at Mingo Central High School; 6/10/22 at 10 a.m. in the auditorium at Tug Valley High

School. Citizen coaches will not be able to renew their temporary coaching authorization without the required trainings. Coaches need to apply for their renewals now in order to be eligible for flex days and practices after July 1, 2022. No coaches are permitted to do any coaching without being fully certified. Coaches should register with Mrs. Hagy by emailing her at tmhagy@k12.wv.us

Summer 2022 Payroll Schedule

Mingo County Schools			
Payroll Schedule			
Summer Programs			
Period			
Begin	End	Workdays	Date Paid
6/21/2022	7/1/2022	9	7/15/2022
7/4/2022	7/15/2022	10	7/29/2022
7/18/2022	8/4/2022	14	8/15/2022
8/5/2022	8/22/2022	12	8/30/2022

37 - Payroll schedule for summer.

PEIA

As the year closes, please take time to review the dependents on your health insurance, and make sure that your beneficiaries are correct/updated. You can access PEIA's Benefit Administration System here: <https://openenrollment.wvpeia.com/YRE/index.cfm>

Professional Development

Ashlock PD will be held in July. Tentative dates are July 25th - 27th. A stipend will be paid for K-4 teachers attending. More information will be announced.

School Health Services

New Policy for Administration of Opioid Antagonist

The Mingo County Board of Education recently adopted a policy to stock Naloxone, an emergency medication used to reverse symptoms of opioid overdose, at schools in our district. In an effort to

promote wellness and be prepared for emergencies, our board members voted unanimously to provide this service to our students and staff. Mingo County School District will partner with the Mingo County Health Department to receive Naloxone free of charge. School nurses and other staff will be trained in the procedure for use and safe storage.



Upcoming Events

Mingo County School Health will be conducting CPR/AED classes for athletic coaches on the following dates and times. These are required classes to renew a coaching certificate.

- 6/6/22 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office
- 6/8/22 at 1:00 p.m. in the Media Center at MCHS
- 6/10/22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium at TVHS

For Our Students

Summer Feeding Schedule 2022

**Mingo County Schools
News Release**

**Mingo County Schools Provides Meals to
Children During the Summer**

Mingo County School District announces their sponsorship of the federally funded Summer Food Service Program.

Breakfast and lunch are open to all children, ages 18 years and under, who would like to participate.

Meals will be served at the following sites:

Burch PKB 275 Bulldog Blvd, Delbarton, WV 25870

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Dingess Elementary 495 Messenger Branch Road, Dingess 25871

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Gilbert PKB 1 Lion Country Way, Gilbert, WV 25821

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Kennel PKB 300 Blue Devil Lane, Kennel, WV 25674

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Lenore PKB 130 Ranger Avenue, Williamson, WV 25681

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Matewan PKB 100 Chambers Street, Matewan, WV 25678

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Williamson PKB 8 Parkway Drive, Williamson, WV 25661

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Mingo Central High School 1000 King Coal Highway, Delbarton, WV 25670

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/15/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Tag Valley High School 50 Panther Avenue, Williamson, WV 25661

Breakfast 6/21/2022 – 7/1/2022: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch 6/21/2022 – 7/15/2022: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

** High School Sites will be closed July 4th for Holiday

For more information about the Summer Food Service Program, please contact the Mingo County Schools Child Nutrition Office at 304-235-7142 or 304-235-7141.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, \(AD-3027\)](#) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (888) 632-8992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1430 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) FAX: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Kits for Kids



Mingo County Schools is excited to announce once again that School Supply Kits will be provided to all students at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. The kits will be distributed during the first few days of school by the PERC Assistants. Kits are for student use and will be in a box with a handle. Each kit contains 30 essential, age-appropriate items to assist students during the school year.

Summer Learning Packets

Through the Literacy Grant, the Mingo County Learning Department purchased and distributed Summer Learning Packets and/or books to students in kindergarten to fourth grade. Students entering kindergarten in the Fall of 2022 received Summer Learning Packets and books during Universal PK Transition/Kindergarten Orientation.

Shewey Science Academy

The Shewey Science Academy for middle school students is usually held in June. Due to planning conflicts, the dates of the Shewey Science Academy will be moved to an after school event in the Fall of 2022.

As plans are finalized, information will be released to schools. Please share this information with your middle school teachers.