

It has been another difficult week for the Cory-Rawson community with the passing of Frank Deeds – a former vocational agriculture teacher at Cory-Rawson, longtime FFA supporter, and a man that impacted countless lives in his lifetime. Mr. Deeds will be missed, certainly by his loved ones and definitely by those who saw him every year at the annual FFA banquet without fail. We can all hope to live such an active and full life as Mr. Deeds did.

Thank you

Thank you to our FCCLA students, Mr. Palte, FFA members, FFA Alumni, Miss James, and all the community members who came in to donate blood during our Red Cross Blood Drive in memory of Jeff Augustine. The community provided an overwhelming response to this event – in fact, it was so overwhelming that the FCCLA and FFA will be teaming up with the Red Cross again on March 15th from 10am to 3pm. Walk-ins are welcome, but scheduling a time is preferred so we can ensure the Red Cross has sufficient staff.

I'm always amazed (but never surprised) by the outpouring of kindness from the community. This sense of giving, togetherness, and selflessness is what makes our community a special place. Thank you!

Athletics

Winter sports are at an end and spring sports are upon us – and with the usual cold temperatures that accompany the first weeks of practice. I'm sure I'll jinx the teams by saying at least it hasn't been raining!

I had previously noted the girls' basketball awards, but wanted to extend congratulations to boys' basketball and wrestling:

Boys' Basketball:

Eric Ritter (Sr)- First-Team All Blanchard Valley Conference, First-Team All-District, District 8 All-Star Game Participant, BVC/PCL All-Star Game Participant

Nathan Zuercher (Sr)-Honorable Mention BVC, BVC/PCL All-Star Game Participant

Kyle Schultz (Jr)- Honorable Mention BVC

Wrestling

Deontáe Davis (So) First-Team All Blanchard Valley Conference, District Qualifier

Tyler Stoodt (Jr) Second-Team All BVC, District Alternate

Blaine Peterson (Sr) Third-Team All BVC, District Qualifier

Dylon Stoops (Sr) Second-Team All BVC

Zerich Magnall (Sr) District Qualifier

Senior Winter All-Academic Athletes

Eric Ritter (BBK)

Haley Waltz (GBK)

Daniel White (WR)

Play

An outstanding cast of high school students will bring Aesop's Fables to life in *A Bagful of Fables* tonight and tomorrow (7pm in the auditorium). Come out and enjoy the show!

Good Luck!

Good luck to the band and choir as they perform at the District Large Group Adjudicated Event at Lima Shawnee High School on Saturday!

Legislation

There are several significant bills at various stages in the Ohio State congress. If you feel strongly about these bills I would encourage you to contact your legislators. Time and again, legislators tell me how important it is for them to hear from constituents. Please make your voice heard!

SB216

This bill is hailed as a school deregulation bill. While not 100% of everything in the bill is outstanding, there is significant benefit in this bill for schools. Among many items in the bill, it allows schools more flexibility in teacher placement and expands the grade bands for teacher licensure (very important for smaller schools such as ours); it provides us more leeway in employing substitute teachers – an area where all schools across Ohio have significant need and insufficient supply of candidates; and corrects a huge mistake in a previous attendance truancy bill which previously held that ALL absences (and not just unexcused absences) should count towards truancy.

Support for this bill is crucial to helping restore some of the local control the state government has taken away. The cost to taxpayers is nothing – in fact, it arguably makes the school able to run more efficiently, saving taxpayer dollars. While I support the bill, I always encourage you to make your own determination. You can read the full analysis below:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=7777&format=pdf>

SB240

Much like SB216, this bill cleans up previous issues in law. Its focus is the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and, at first glance, appears to streamline a cumbersome process and remove several unnecessary aspects of OTES. When OTES was first introduced it was hailed as a great evaluation system for all schools. In theory that was correct; however, in practice it is not a one-size-fits-all solution and, while it has provided some positives, it has done so with much unnecessary baggage. I recommend support of SB240 – however, as before, you can read a full analysis to determine your position:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=8686&format=pdf>

HB 512

This bill would create the Department of Learning and Achievement to oversee secondary and postsecondary education. It would remove the majority of the power that the elected State Board of Education has and place it with the Governor who will fill positions in this department by appointment. In operation, this unified department is purported to be more efficient by having all departments together. Additionally, it provides the Governor with almost unilateral ability to make changes in education (but still within the laws created by the legislature). While I can see the potential efficiencies in having a unified department of education, I am leery of removing power from a board of education which is elected. Education policy already goes through too many changes and the local schools end up running in circles trying to chase the constantly changing targets. With every change of the governor, education policy has changed – not always drastically, but definitely with consistency. If this bill is passed, education policy will likely change significantly every 4 to 8 years and schools and students will be the ones directly affected. While this bill is a little more difficult to clearly see a decisive answer, I believe the current structure, though not perfect, is better than this alternative and recommend against supporting this bill. You can decide for yourself in reading the analysis below and various articles about HB 512:

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<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=8763&format=pdf>

<https://www.ohio.com/akron/editorial/editorials/beacon-journal-ohio-com-editorial-board-to-what-end-merge-three-state-education-offices>

<https://edexcellence.net/articles/moving-ohio-towards-a-more-coherent-k%E2%80%93governance-model>

<http://www.the-review.com/news/20180227/kasich-officials-push-for-merge-of-education-agencies>

<http://www.dispatch.com/news/20180220/questions-remain-on-how-education-merger-helps-students-prepare-for-jobs>

<http://www.dispatch.com/opinion/20180302/bob-taft-plan-streamlines-improves-state-education-system>

<http://www.dispatch.com/news/20180307/education-merger-bill-attracts-overflow-crowd-of-opponents>

If you have any questions about the pending legislation please do not hesitate to call or email me. Regardless of your perspective on these bills, I encourage you to voice your opinion to your legislators – you can find them below.

<http://ohiosenate.gov/index>

<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/>