



CENTERVILLE  
CITY SCHOOLS

## Academic Volunteer Newsletter | January 2023

### Welcome Back Volunteers!

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday break and the opportunity for quality time with your families. You deserved it after a busy first semester. We had 206 parents, guardians and community members volunteer in our district first semester, contributing more than 3,200 hours benefitting Centerville students! Thanks for being part of this amazing community!

### WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS THE DISTRICT WITH AVP

**Primary: 38 Volunteers help in new nature class at PVN**

Our primary schools have a new nature class as part of their integrated arts rotation. Volunteers have always played an important role in supporting nature education for our youngest learners, and this year with more classes, more volunteers than ever have been sharing their love of the outdoors with our kindergarten and first graders at PVN. Learn more about our nature program in this article written by one of our current volunteers and founder of Ohio Naturally, Meredith Florkey: [Click Here](#)



**Elementary: Volunteers help create permanent mosaic at John Hole**

Thanks to PTO funding, every student at John Hole was able to contribute to a new mosaic with the help of Jes McMillan from the Dayton Mosaic Institute. 11 Academic Volunteers participated in art classes during "mosaic week," providing extra support as the children took turns adding colored glass pieces to this special project. The mosaic is now a beautiful permanent installation in the school.



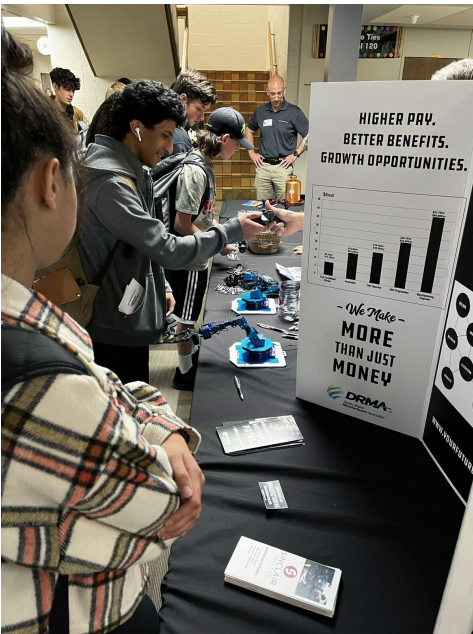
**Middle School: What is a "Noon Hour" Academic Helper?**

Each of our 3 middle schools utilizes volunteers to assist students during their “noon hour” (the half of their lunch period when they have a study hall). We spoke with counselor Arleen Petty at Watts about what the program at Watts looks like.

Volunteers typically work with small groups of 3-6 students at a time. Sometimes the volunteers will also assist during 5th period, right after noon hour, where they will work one on one with a student. Topics can include anything the student needs assistance with in addition to focusing on organization and helping students complete missing assignments. Aside from language tutoring, no special skills are required- just a desire to help students! Volunteers typically commit to working a 1 ½ hour shift once a week, which enables them to establish a relationship with the students. These relationships provide immeasurable benefits as the students see another trusted adult in their life who wants them to succeed. This extra tutoring support would not be possible without the AVP, and they could always use more volunteers to help more students!

**High School: New "Power Lunches" organized by AVP Coordinators**

The high school held the first of a new lunchtime program designed to introduce students to various career opportunities in the greater Dayton area. October featured guests from DRMA (Dayton Region Manufacturer's Association) with a table of hands-on displays. Additional Power Lunches are being planned for next semester. Two of our AVP coordinators and volunteers, Susan Ralston and Rachel Casey, have been organizing these events.



Open Volunteer Opportunities:

Don't have a volunteer opportunity yet or looking to add more? If you're willing to consider other buildings, please reach out to Heather at [heather.schnier@centerville.k12.oh.us](mailto:heather.schnier@centerville.k12.oh.us) and I'll help find you a match. Below are some of our biggest needs throughout the district right now:

Math Tutors Needed at Magsig

Help is needed for 6th grade students working on an online math program. The volunteer would check in with students who have questions, read the program questions with them, and help them determine which processes to follow. This is an in-classroom opportunity where the teacher will be present, so extensive math knowledge is not required.

Noon Hour Helpers at Middle Schools

More tutors are always welcome at any of our 3 middle schools with a special need currently for a Spanish tutor at Watts.

Math Pentathlon at Normandy

Do you like games? Volunteers are needed to lead small groups of students in math games Tu/Th during midday this quarter. Training will be provided. [What is Math Pentathlon?](#)

Feedback Survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to our feedback survey on the volunteer application process! We are planning to make some changes to our AVP website with your comments in mind to make the process clearer and answer your questions. We are also evaluating our communication process at the beginning of the school year. If you have not responded, there is still time to make your opinion known in this 2 minute anonymous survey:



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

SHELLEY BUCH

This is Shelley's 7th year volunteering with the Academic Volunteer Program. She began when her daughter was in kindergarten and currently enjoys helping in a variety of areas, including working with students independently and in small groups, helping in the library, with middle school clubs, and during the lunch hour at Magsig. Her favorite part of volunteering is watching the students' growths and achievements throughout the school year.



JONI MCDONALD

Joni began volunteering once a week at PVS during the '18-'19 school year. Earlier this year she retired from her full time job and has more time to volunteer. She currently splits her time between a 5th grade class at Weller and kindergarten class at PVS. She enjoys writing, reading and math, with her absolute favorite being to read a great book aloud to a group. Joni says "It's especially fun to know I've helped something click with a student. You can tell when they are really listening and absorbing something from the interaction. And sometimes, they only need some brief 1-1 attention, which is more of a mental health goal than an academic one. Glad to help with that too!"

VOLUNTEERS EMPOWER, CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT

The culmination of the district's strategic plan process is a new mission for the district to empower, challenge and support every learner to grow every day. We see volunteers making a powerful contribution to this vision. Consider how you are empowering, challenging, and supporting students the next time you volunteer!

WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

With winter weather here, we would like to remind our community volunteers to check the [district website](#) for school closing and delay information before coming in. Many teachers will not request a volunteer on delay days. Check with your teacher or building coordinator if you are unsure if you will be needed when there is a delay. If weather conditions ever make you feel uncomfortable coming in, please just let us know and stay safe.

Contact Us:

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