

GALI N

CITY SCHOOLS

COURAGE TO CLIMB

Presenters:

Matt Dick, Maura Hartley, Katie Guy, and Kelly Showecker



Our District



Meets state standards

Overall Rating

Districts and schools receive an overall rating of 1 to 5 stars in half-star increments. The overall rating is comprised of up to six rated components.

	Enrollment #	Percent
All Students	1,549	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	NC	NC
Asian or Pacific Islander	NC	NC
Black, Non-Hispanic	17	1.1%
Hispanic	67	4.3%
Multiracial	82	5.3%
White, Non-Hispanic	1,378	89.0%
Students with Disabilities	298	19.3%
Economic Disadvantage	1,549	100.0%
Migrant	NC	NC



GALION'S HEAD COACH MOST WINS IN GALION HISTORY

Galion City Schools

October 29, 2025

Meet Coach Matt Dick!

We're proud to introduce our **Head Football Coach, Matt Dick**, who just hit an incredible milestone – **the most wins in Galion history** with an outstanding **61 victories!** 🏆

Coach Dick began his career at Galion in **2016** as Head Football Coach, bringing his background as a **Math teacher** and his passion for developing student-athletes both on and off the field.

If we could describe him in a few words – **humble, determined, and always there for the kids.**

Matt and his wife, **Sara**, stay busy with their **five children**, each heading in their own direction, but always cheering on the Tigers! 🐾💙



Irresistible





Maura Hartley

Teaching Experience: 18 years

4th Grade Teacher

Mom of 4

Loves to read

Lives and works in Galion.





Katie Guy

Teaching Experience: 18 years

5th Grade Teacher

Mom of 3

Loves to Garden

Lives and works in Galion.





Kelly Showecker

Teaching Experience: 12 years

5th Grade Teacher

Mom of 2

Loves live music

Lives outside of Galion in the country





The Dash 2026 - ...

What do we want our students to be able to do when they graduate Galion City Schools?





RESILIENT

- a. Learns from past challenges to aid in future success
- b. Chooses your response by focusing on your circle of control
- c. Taps into strengths and support systems to overcome challenges

SELF-DISCIPLINED

- a. Ambitious and driven towards one's goals
- b. Engages in proactive/positive behavior – such as responsibility, structure, routine, choosing how to react to situations
- c. Willing to persevere when things become challenging

INVOLVED

- a. Displays passion for the success of the community through active engagement in service opportunities
- b. Seeks ways to participate in school related activities to develop a sense of Galion Pride

EMPATHETIC

- a. Caring, Kindness, Compassion
- b. Works to understand and recognize other's points of view
- c. Empathetic to others/ Supports others without having to agree with them
- d. Seeks first to understand

PERSON OF INTEGRITY

- a. Listens to others' perspectives and demonstrates strong character during challenging situations (honest, truthful)
- b. Dedicated to values and beliefs
- c. Honest and possesses strong moral principles
- d. Does the right thing when others aren't watching – possible addition

BALANCED

- a. Makes a conscious decision to prioritize a healthy balance between personal, academic and emotional demands
- b. healthily divides time meaningfully between a variety of things such as school activities, friends and family
- c. Retains the ability to organize and self-regulate the demands of daily life

PROBLEM SOLVER

- a. Innovative
- b. Active learner
- c. Uses a variety of methods to effectively convey ideas
- d. Values input from others
- e. Actively listens to encourage collaboration
- f. Promotes intellectual curiosity

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A **TIGER**



Our Directional System

- North Star- What are we working towards
- Decision making tool
- Connection tool
- How I win an argument

Our Courage Compass

Mantra: Courage to Climb

Vision (what we hope for the future):

Develop students' knowledge, character, and courage to strengthen our community and shape the future.

Mission (what we do every day):

Engage every student in rigorous, meaningful learning that builds knowledge, character, and resilience.

Our Core Beliefs

Every person has value, potential, and worth.

Learning requires both high expectations and strong support.

Character and integrity matter as much as achievement.

Learning should be authentic, engaging, and meaningful.

Strong relationships and community partnerships strengthen learning.

Learning prepares everyone to contribute to something bigger than themselves



Our Roles

Students

Take ownership of learning, persevere through challenges, and contribute positively to the school community.

Educators & Staff

Design engaging learning experiences, build relationships, and support student growth.

School & District Leaders

Promote the Courage Compass by creating conditions for success through trust, communication, and support.

Board of Education

Uphold the Courage Compass, ensure accountability, and be a vital link and advocate between the schools and the community.

Families

Partner with schools to encourage learning, maintain communication, and support student growth.

Community Partners

Provide opportunities and support that strengthen student learning and community pride.



Our Commitments

Learning is meaningful and authentic.

Every student is known, supported, and challenged.

Students are active participants in their learning.

Learning develops the whole child.

Learning prepares students to contribute to their community and larger society.



Our Promises

Lead with trust and professional respect.

Model the Courage to Climb.

Pair high expectations with strong support.

Address challenges through Restorative Practices.

Keep students at the center of our decisions.

Communicate with transparency and listen with curiosity.



Our Norms for Working Together

Be solution-oriented

Own & reflect on your impact

Be present

Use “what if” thinking

Share the air

Ground statements in evidence

Assume positive intent

Seek first to understand



Discover Your Spark

From Vision to Impact

2026 Summer Institute for Authentic Learning and Leadership



The Idea for Passion Night

- Buddy Berry
- Superintendent at Eminence
- Surprise and Delight
- Disney Moments
- Make School Irresistible
- [Exemplars Website](#)



EMINENCE EXEMPLARS - 3

	* Collaborate with an outside agency to solve a problem * Successful Passion Project participation * Complete at least 2 hours of community service Create a spoken or visual presentation for class/community Deliver a proficient Passion Project presentation Complete additional 4 hours of community service or service learning (6 total) Document participation in 1 extracurricular activity Complete character education at a proficient level Complete a video reflection on the impact of your service Document participation of attendance at 2 unique school events outside of school hours
	* Add 3 pieces to writing portfolio (narrative, informative, opinion) * Implement Eminence Technology Standards * Participate in 5 Hours of Code Create a prototype to solve a problem Meet diagnostic growth goal or benchmark for math and reading Earn proficient scores on all writing portfolio pieces Create a group exhibit for an EDhub museum day Demonstrate growth in keyboarding skills Demonstrate the ability to work together in a group effectively Use online adaptive tools for at least 15 minutes each day in class
	* Meet an academic goal and a personal goal * Complete Edhub tool trainings (green screen, TinkerCAD, KYVL) * Attend 4th grade college recruitment event Create a product for public sale Set and meet a reading challenge goal* Complete a proficient green screen project Complete wellness standards per grade level Complete synthesize task (Example: Design a structure that can withstand a weather disaster) Complete Too Good for Drugs program Design a model in 3D software according to design thinking principles

First Three Exemplars Are Mandatory From Each Column Each Year.
OPTIONAL Student Needs Two Additional Items From Each Column For WHITE Status And FIVE For BLUE.

The GOAL

**"Game on!
YOLO!"**





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Planning 2024-25

1st Year Administrator, Matt Dick, talks about Passion Night and Buddy Berry.

Conversation only advances in Matt Dick's head.





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Planning 2024-25

Kelly and Matt took a trip to Eminence Kentucky in March 2025.





Planning 2024-25

Matt Google Meet with Eminence Elementary Principal Sherry Curtsinger

She gave Matt a Google form for teachers and let him know that she ran a passion group with Robots Fighting



Planning Overview 2025-26

- Created Passion Action Team
 - Met once a Month
- Teachers chose something they were passionate about to share with Students
- Students picked their passion group through a Google Form, rating their top 3 choices
- Passion Action Team created groups and rearranged teachers based on interest of students
- Passion Action Team created a planning template to share
- Teachers created lessons and presentation of learning for passion night
- Passion Groups- Met once a Months from October to January for 40 Minutes
- Passion Week- Passion Groups met for 2 hours for 5 days
- Passion Night
 - Happens at the end of passion week
 - An evening event for students to present their learning from 6:00 - 7:30 pm
 - Staggered presentation times



Action Team

- What is an Action Team? A team created to take action on a specific topic.
- When do they meet? They met once a month for ~40 minutes.
- Who is on the team? Adults within the building make up the teams
- How do you share out information? Info is shared by notes, emails, and during staff meetings.



Picking Your Passion

- Who lead passion groups? Any adult in the district lead a group
 - Teachers
 - Principals
 - CAP Advisors
 - Aides
- How to pick your passion?
 - A hobby you love or are interested in
 - A topic that our students love or are interested in
 - An activity that brings out Portrait of a Tiger traits
 - A quality that is perceived as missing in our students' lives



Fundraising

- \$500 district Surprise and Delight Fund
- \$500 Galion Community Education Foundation (GCEF)
- \$1000 from local businesses
- Lego Donation
- Repurpose Supplies





Creating Student Passion Groups

- Students picked their passion group through a Google Form
- The form allowed them to choose and rate their top 3 choices
- From there, Passion Action Team created groups
 - Looked at students top choice
 - Considered numbers in each group
 - rearranged teachers based on interest of students



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Planning Google Sheet

Galion Passion Project

Dates: 10/15, 11/12, 12/17, 1/21 (8:05 to 8:40) (4th Special Starts at 9:20-10:00 and 3rd Special 10:00-10:40) (We are doing this to make up specials prep)

Passion Week: Starts on Friday and Ends on Thursday 2/20, 2/23, 2/24, 2/25, 2/26 (2 Hour Delay Schedule)

Passion Night: Presentation of Learning: 2/26 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

If you need a bus, supplies, or anything else, please email Matt. Year 1 we will have lot of logistics to workout.

Overview & Objectives

Students will: (3 Objectives for Passion and 3 Objectives connected to the Portrait of a Tiger)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

Max Kids (20-50)

Title (Passion Name)

Teacher Name/s

10/15 Day 1 Plan

Resources

11/12 Day 2

Ask students what they want to learn





Passion Groups Monthly Meeting

- 40 Minutes
- 1st meeting groups discuss objective and purpose of group
 - What did students want to learn?
 - What requirements for presentation of learning and Portrait of a Tiger?
 - Inclusion of student voice allowed for student ownership of learning.
 - This allowed teachers to complete the planning sheet.
- Monthly Meetings
 - Skill Development
 - Surprise and Delight
 - Community Involvement



Passion Week

- 2 hours for 5 days
 - Actual: 4 days due to Mother Nature
- 2-Hour Delay Schedule
 - Affected 2 buildings
- Focused on honing skills and presentation of learning
 - Surprise and Delight
 - Increased Community Involvement
 - How to present?
 - What to present?
 - Who is doing what?
 - Where will presentation happen?



Passion Night

- One night, 6:00-7:30
- Staggered Presentation Times
 - Scheduled by the Action Team

Schedule of Events

4th & 5th Grade Presentations of Learning in the classrooms.

6:00-6:25

Willeke - Dude Perfect Trick Shots - Room 501
Baughn & Stricklen - Creative Expressions - Room 404
Hartley - LEGO - Room 409
Price - Digital Creativity - Room 510

6:20-6:40

Mr. Dick & Smith - Football - Room 403

6:25-6:50

Kieffer - Beach Glass Art - Library
Gingrich - Family Meals - Room 410
Showecker - CSI - Room 513
Stine & Ms. Louise- Sign Language - Room 506

6:40-7:05

Rinehart - Robotics - Room 411
Obenour & Mr. Evan - Storycrafters - Room 405
Webb - Self Care - Room 405
Reagan - Sparkle Squad - Room 509

4th & 5th Grade Presentations of Learning on the Stage

6:00-6:20

Fisher & Ms. Middleton - All Dog and Puppy Lovers!

6:20-6:40

Will remain in the cafeteria to sell Dog Treats

6:40-7:10

Roston & Guy - TikTok Dances

7:15-7:30

5th Grade Band
(Band members meet in the music room at 6:50)

4th & 5th Grade Presentations of Learning in the Gymnasium

6:00-6:20

Mrs. Dick - Basketball

6:20-6:40

Valentine - Volleyball

6:40-7:00

Mr. Dick - Football



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Discover Your Spark

February 26

6:00-7:30 PM

Galion Intermediate School (GIS)

You're Invited!

Parents, families, and students are invited to join us for Passion Night, an exciting evening showcasing student learning across 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades!

3rd Grade students will be a part of our Wax Museum Experience

- Each student selected a historical or influential person to research
- Students were grouped with peers who chose similar individuals
- They studied their person's life, impact, and accomplishments
- Students will bring history to life by sharing what they learned

4th and 5th Grade students will present Passion Projects.

This year, every 4th and 5th-grade student and teacher selected a personal passion they wanted to learn more about. Groups range from creative arts and science to leadership, sports, technology, and more!

- Students met in Passion Clubs 5 times throughout the year
- Each session lasted 30 minutes, focused on exploration and learning
- During Passion Week, students dove deeper into their interests
- Students created a project or presentation that they are excited to share

Why Passion Night Matters

These experiences help students:

- Take ownership of their learning
- Build confidence in speaking and presenting
- Explore interests and role models that inspire them
- Develop creativity, collaboration, and perseverance

Come celebrate our students' passions, curiosity, and hard work!

We can't wait to see you at GIS Passion Night on February 26



Fears

- Students wouldn't show up
 - 80% Attendance with no student or teacher incentive
- Community won't show up
 - Cars filled parking lot and parked in the grass
- Teachers would hate me for making them do one more thing
 - Multiple teachers asked to meet with their group after passion night was over.
- Not Enough Money
 - Lots of community support!
- Not Enough Time
 - We practiced perseverance.
- Fear of losing instructional time

CSI- Showecker

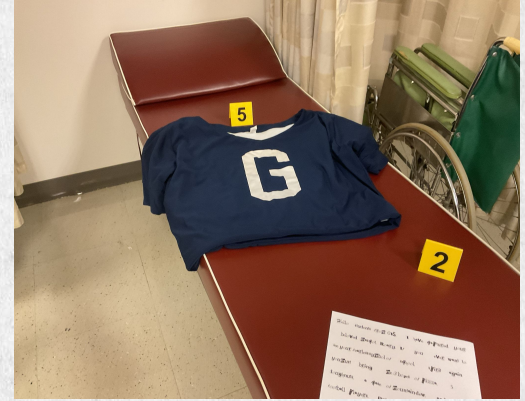
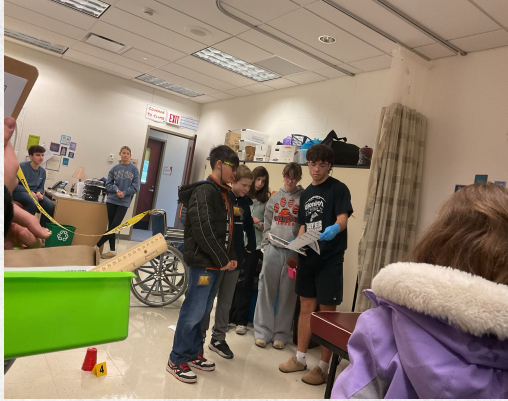


From puzzles to crime shows, my love of solving mysteries inspired the creation of CSI Club.

Our SRO and a local police lieutenant provided students with an authentic look at forensic investigations and evidence collection.



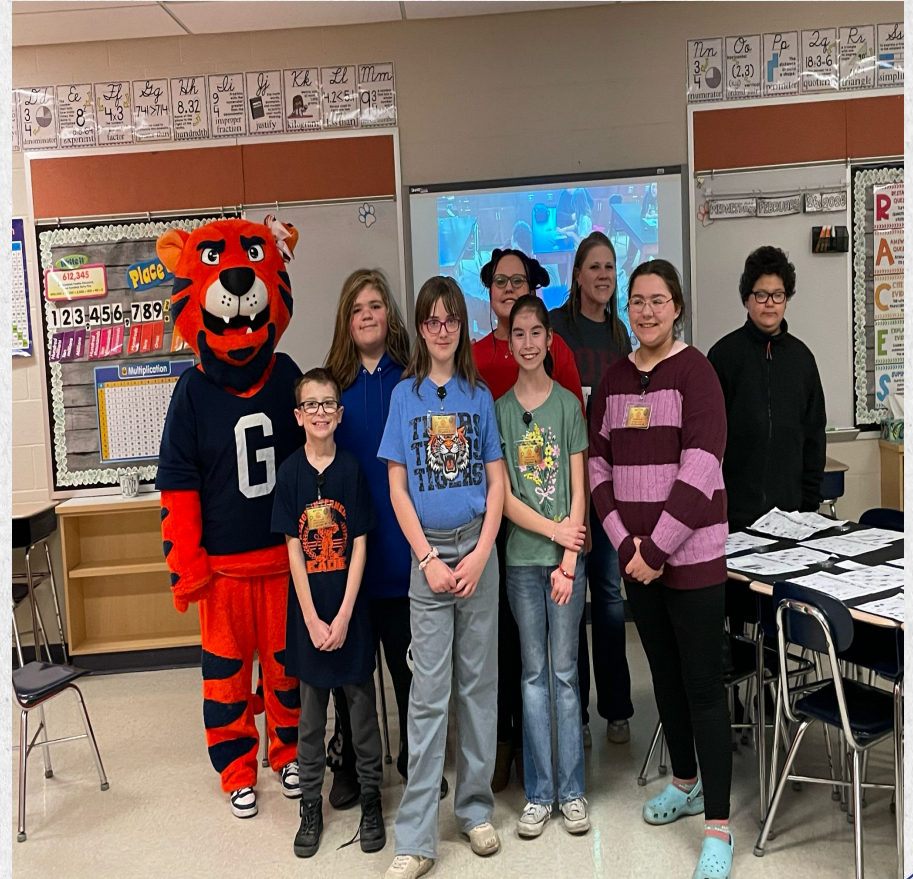
CSI- Showecker



Through collaboration with our high school Forensic Science teacher and her students, CSI club members were able to apply their learning to solve a mystery.



CSI- Showecker



School Pride





TikTok- Guy

Students worked in teams to find songs with lyrics that represented a specific trait in the Portrait of a Tiger.

Not my first choice, but we had fun!

2 advisors and help from high school cheerleaders and middle school tech coaches.

Next: Change the presentation of learning and practice in the space to ensure the sound quality was adequate.

Next: Ensure that more group members could be there so they could share their learning.





Lego- Hartley

I brought my passion of working and building with LEGOs to my passion club.

Through collaboration and donations from LEGO Store in Columbus we were able to provide our Passion Club with the LEGOs needed to make my club's designs come to life.





Lego- Hartley

Students used Problem Solving skills, Resilience, and Collaboration to design, create, and present original works of LEGO art.





Lego- Hartley

For Passion Night, students created a slideshow to present the different creations they made throughout the year. Additionally, each student presented one of their works of Lego Art at Passion Night and shared what they enjoyed about Lego Club and any challenges they may have faced along the way.





Football- Dick/Smith

- My Objective- Increase High School Sports Participation
- Went through Portrait of a Tiger Traits and connection to Football
- Student Voice
 - Play Football
 - 15 Minutes everyday (I'm the ref)
 - Rules
 - Plays
- Pushups when they talk
- Passion Night
 - Present Slide Show or Poster
 - Play Tournament in the gym
 - Had to make rules to keep students safe



Football- Dick/Smith

Not Enough High School Students participate

Portrait of a GT in Sports

1. Person of integrity
listens to other people's perspectives and demonstrates a strong character during challenging situations
2. Self Disciplined
willing to persevere when things are challenging: Football 300 days in the weight room



3. Kyle in football is you can only have four people in the backfield
4. Sports matter because
1. outdoors/exercise
2. leadership/responsibility
3. self-discipline

The Problem - not enough high schoolers are playing sports

1. Post Fliers
2. Post on the Facebook page
3. Start them in Middle School
4. Low cost/ing fees
5. Supportive coaching

Player: Myles Garrett

Portrait of a Tiger trait.

Resilient is to
up by 50 or down by 50 you still playing hard! Or too
have a circle of control.

It is all so to play to play to a standard not a scoreboard.

Empathetic

Help teammates up and caring for each others.

These are some of the most
resilient football player

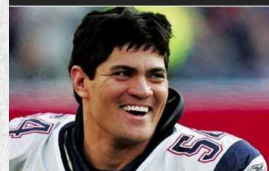
Alex smith



Jack youngblood



Tedy bruschi





Football- Dick/Smith

- Adjustments
 - Start with objective- to increase high school sports
 - Use Google Slides so multiple students can work at same time.
 - Need to add some supervision of Presentations of Learning
 - Assistant Principal
 - Action Team- check lesson plans/projects



Wax Museum



Creative Expressions

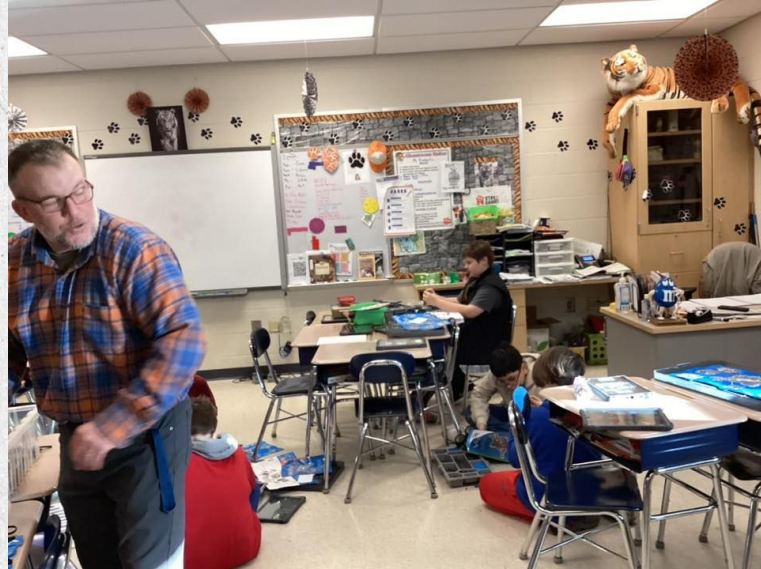


Sparkle Squad





Robo Rumble



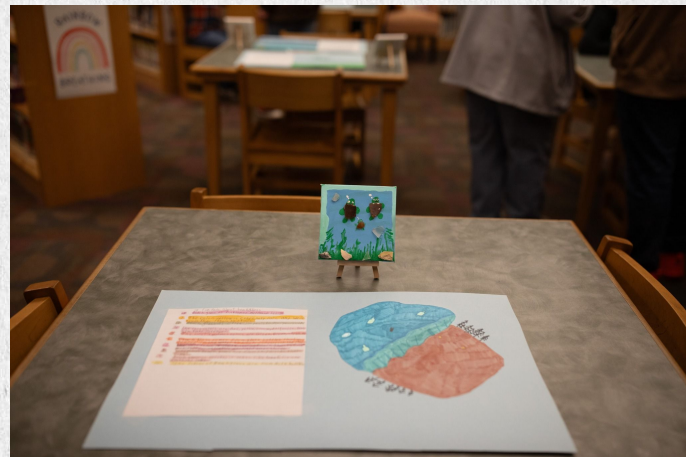
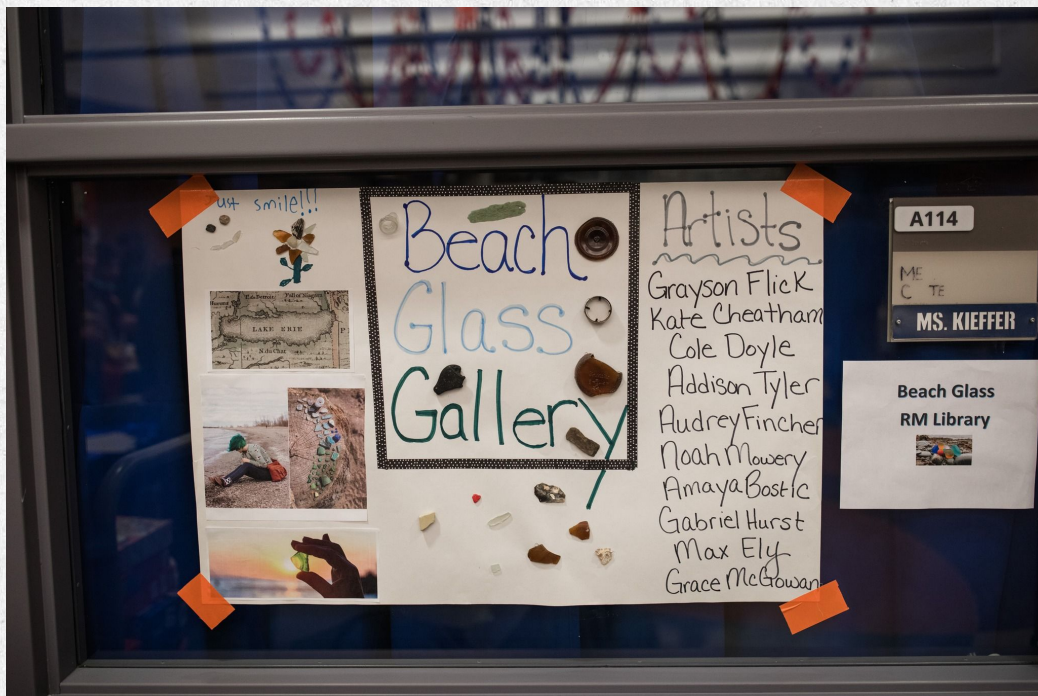


All Dog Lovers
Sold dog treats made
by students.





Beach Glass (Lake Erie)





CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY





Basketball



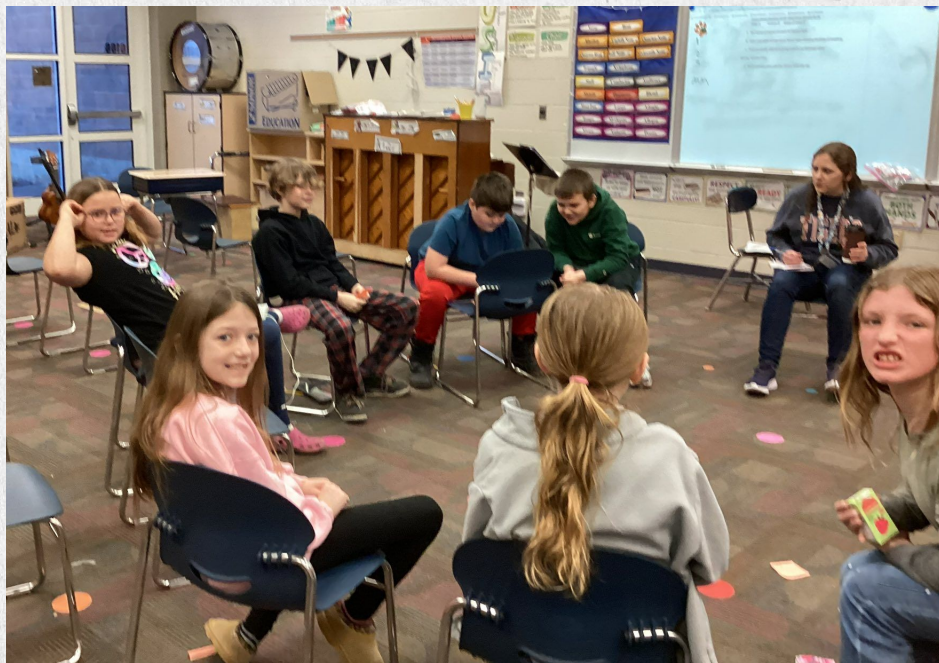
Volleyball





Student Council

- Setup and Teardown
- Greeters
- Created Passion Night Merch
- Tour Guides









Success 917



Reflection

- Lack of teacher planning time
 - Solution: Galion City Schools is going to a 4 Day week
 - Every Monday is for building Authentic Learning Experience
 - Increase collaboration
 - Grade level
 - Subject
 - Building
 - District
 - Community
- 3rd Grade Participation
 - Solution: Wax Museum at a different time, Teachers lead a Passion Group



Reflection

- No Kids Chose My Group! 😭
 - Solution: Teachers will create a short clip to advertise their Passion Group, shown at lunch
- Presentation of Learning Flopped
 - Solution: Teachers will make adjustments for future learning
 - videos
 - technology
- Robo Rumble could not program their robots.
 - Solution: HS teacher came wearing his superhero cape!
 - Came to club and worked with members to complete the task.
 - Offered to come next year, to offer PD before Passion Week.



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Reflection

- Should we do this again?





Next Year Plan

Passion Night:

Date: February 25, 2027

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Passion Week:

Date: February 18 - February 25, (5 Days Wed-Th)

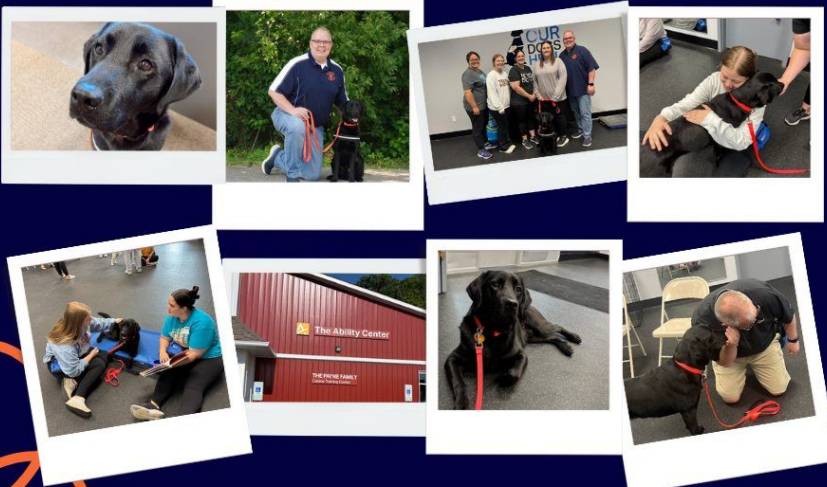
Time: 8:05- 9:55 am (2-Hour Delay Schedule)

We Do Cool Stuff



GALION CITY SCHOOLS
CHANGING THE FUTURE

Galion City Schools **Meet Radar**



GALION MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS
PRESENT THEIR SPRING

Purr-formance

TITLED
"Let the World Take Flight"

 **MONDAY, APRIL 27**
7:00 P.M.

DOORS OPEN
6:15 P.M.

GALION HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIUM

 **STARTING AT**
6:30 P.M.

WE'VE PARTNERED WITH
THE HUMANE SOCIETY
SERVING CRAWFORD COUNTY
*Meet adoptable cats
before the show!*



COME EARLY AND CHECK OUT:

 50/50 RAFFLE	 COSI TICKETS	 GRILL BASKET	 BUCKEYE MUSEUM PASS
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 **ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT**
GALION MUSIC PARENTS



Summer Feeding Program Success!

The Summer 2025 Feeding Program at Galion High School was a huge success—39,648 meals were distributed!

This is almost double the total from Summer 2024 (21,609 meals), thanks to increased participation and the addition of weekend meals for families.

We're so proud to support our community in this way and thankful for everyone who helped make it possible!

Want to sign up for next summer? Watch for details in May 2026!



GALION CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DRIVE-THRU MOBILE PANTRY

All are welcome!



Galion Middle School

474 Portland Way N, Galion, OH 44833

SECOND HARVEST
SCHOOL
PANTRY



Exciting news Tiger Families...

ALL students will receive FREE breakfast and lunch under the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) for the 2025 - 2026 school year!!

Save time and money knowing your child/children are enjoying nutritious, well balanced meals at school each day. A la carte items will still be available for purchase at Intermediate, Middle and High School.

10 MONTHS AGO, GALION CITY SCHOOLS







$E+R=O$ #ProTip

- Stop trying to control outcomes
- Start trying to get good enough to create them.



$E + R = O$

Event + Response = Outcome





Polar Express- Kindergarten



Veterans Day





G.G.G.G.G

Galion Girls Gets Gains

Girl's Only Lifting

Monday-Thursday
10 - 11:30 am

Focus on strength, speed, and agility open to any female Galion students 10 years or older.

Starting on June 1st
Meet at the stadium track!

Getting Better Together.



Contact Information

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Questions???

