



# C.H.O.I.C.E.S.



River Valley Middle School

Site Coordinator: Mrs. Patricia Stout / Vicky Bryant

January 2020



On December 13, 2019, River Valley Middle School C.H.O.I.C.E.S. program traveled to Ashland, Kentucky to watch Tchaikovsky's Moscow 's Great Russian Nutcracker at the Paramount Arts Center. The ballet is a Christmas story about Uncle Drosselmeyer preparing his gift of life-sized Moore dolls for his niece Masha and nephew Fritz. One feature unique to the ballet were the tall innovative rolling backgrounds which were inspired by Eisenstein's cinematic technique. Tchaikovsky's music set the mood for each act from fanciful mood for a Christmas party, to the conflict between the Rat King and Nutcracker, to peace and harmony when Masha wakes up from her bad dream. The ballet was performed by professional dancers as well as local talent. The Paramount Arts Center was built in 1931 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The focus of the art center is on educational opportunities for youth. Before the ballet students enjoy eating at Fat Patty's.

## Activities

- Krav Maga
- NASA
- Cultural International
- Community Service / Make-It-Take-It
- Hunter Safety
- Snack Lab
- Quiz Bowl
- Physical Fitness
- Engineering
- S.E.L.F.
- Computer Games
- News Paper
- Crafts
- Bowling
- Family Events**
- Healthy Kick Start
- Out of This World Community College and Career Readiness
- Literacy Night
- Mystery Dinner Theater
- Pottery Place Visit
- Russian Nutcracker Play
- Lights in the Park Stroll

## New International Culture Activity

A new activity offered this year at RVMS C.H.O.I.C.E.S. is Studies of International Culture. Students that sign up for the activity study different cultures from all around the world. They research different areas of the world to see how they live, their taste in food, their customs, and compare them to their own. Sami Dikmen from Turkey came to speak to the students about his country and brought them some tasty treats for his homeland. Another speaker was a foreign exchange student, Joy, from Korea. She talked to them about different foods and compared the difference in their culture to ours.



## Remember !



**Trip to Wicked Play in Columbus for all students with 30 Days of attendance in their Afterschool**

**Afterschool resumes on January 6, 2020. Monday—Thursday 2:30 pm—5:30 pm each the week. Transportation will be provided home. Take advantage of this great opportunity. Registration forms and calendars will be available in the office.**

## A Journey to the Unknown Literacy Night

On November 21, 2020, River Valley Middle School partnered with the CHOICES program to hold their annual literacy night with a science theme this year; Journey to the Unknown. Students and parents started at stations throughout the school to work on literacy techniques of writing and reading. Some stations were on graphic novel writing, literacy games, and nonfiction reading in science. Students that attended the night were able to participate in door prize drawings for electronic tablets and \$50 worth of books. The winners of Galaxy tablets were Jacob Renolds (6th), Cynthia McGuire (7th), and Kaitlyn Hatfield (8th). The Kindle Fire winners were Evan Dewitt (6th), Garrett Gilbert (7th) and Owen Summers (8th). Riley Carter (6th), Josie Ramey (7th), and Matt Casey (8th) won the \$50 worth of books each. Congratulations!



## NASA Stem Challenge

This new activity is sponsored by 21st century and NASA of the John Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Parents were asked to attend a parent meeting to get information about the new activity and the importance of the commitment from the students. RVMS chose Parachuting Onto Mars as their NASA project. Using the Engineering Design Process; research, design, prototype, test, and evaluate, students had to create a drag device to slow the descent of a team built cargo bay that contains 10 grams. grams.

On January 27, 2020, head evaluator, Vanessa Mullins and her partner Mike from John Glenn Research Center in Cleveland visited RVMS CHOICES NASA program. They interviewed the instructors Kegan Angel and David Holiday to get feedback on the lessons for the project Parachuting Onto Mars provided by NASA. They discussed at length about the timeline of the project, the students' ability to work through the project, some of the difficulties for the students, and the successes for the students. Students were asked to present their projects to the visitors and explained how they worked together to decide on their final prototype for the project.



## Gallipolis In Lights Community Project

Students in the CHOICES program participated in the community project Gallipolis In Lights. The city of Gallipolis asks for area agencies, schools, and families to purchase trees and decorate them for the park before the grand lighting ceremony on November 27, 2019. This is a project to encourage commerce to the city that grows more each year with everyone's help. Students enjoy creating unique decorations for their tree in the park. This year students reindeer ornaments from CDs. On December 16, 2019, in the park CHOICES held a family engagement called Lights in the Park Stroll so the students could show their tree off as well as see all the other decorations. Families conducted a scavenger hunt to guide them through the display of lights. Families were given a Winter Break Fun For All packet, Area Resource Guide magnet, hot chocolate and cookie was served at Zack and Scotties, prizes were given out, and movie passes for the family to enjoy over Christmas break

