



S.T.E.P.S.



River Valley High School

Site Coordinator: Mr. Brad Clay

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Summer Reading Tips for Middle & High School Students

Reading throughout the summer plays a key role in preventing the backward academic slide that students experience while not in school. Research shows students who read during the summer improve or maintain their reading skills. They can improve their accuracy, fluency, and comprehension over the summer if they develop a reading routine and maintain it throughout the summer.

Some suggestions to encourage reading during the summer include:

- ◆ Set aside a time for the family to read together.
- ◆ Choose a family book to read together and discuss.
- ◆ Organize a family book club for long term reads.
- ◆ Provide books and magazines.
- ◆ Plan family trips to the library or bookstores.
- ◆ Choose audiobooks to listen to in the car together



Ohio University Campus Tour and Ballgame

On February 3, 2024, the STEPS students traveled to the Ohio University Campus for a tour and a men's ballgame. The tour was led by a couple of OU students which included a ride on an escalator (a first for some), a walk across campus to several buildings including the Vernon R. Alden Library, and ended at one of several dining halls to have lunch. After lunch, students walked to the Convocation Center to watch a winning men's basketball game. On this day students were able to see what college life could be if they choose this option for their future.



Career Awareness

This year the afterschool program focused on **Career Awareness** throughout the year using different approaches. A **career coach**, Samantha Shaffer, provided by **Buckeye Hills Career Center** visited periodically with employees from various fields to talk to the students about their jobs and qualifications. Many brought their equipment and let students handle the tools and try on work gear such as helmets and vest. **Level Up Gallia**, Ed Moore, visited providing information through discussion focusing on career exploration and opportunities, training requirements, and expected incomes. Students were made aware of applications, references, work ethics, and other valuable information needed when applying and working at a job. On February 1, 2024, students visited URG Campus to attend an **ACT Boot Camp** where students work on test taking skills, interpreting questions for preparation in taking the up coming ACT test. On March 4, 2024, **Ohio State Extension Office** provided the afterschool students with the program of **Real World / Real Money**. This activity provided students with real life experience and life emergencies after choosing their career, house, car, insurance, etc. Students have to create a budget which leads to rethinking some of their choices. May 7, 2024, a group of students will visit the **Waterway Careers Career Fair** in Pt. Pleasant, WV.



