



# CHOICES.



River Valley Middle School

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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

## Esports

CHOICES Esports program has expanded their program in the number of attendees and friendly competition with other school teams. The program entered the Southeast Ohio Esports League Tournament held at the University of Rio Grande on March 16, 2024. Four teams competed: Ironton High, Ironton Middle, River Valley Middle, and Gallia Academy High. River Valley Middle clinched 2nd place in Rocket League with 1st place to Ironton High and Gallia Academy placing 2nd in Fortnite and Smash Brothers. This was a great experience for the students to participate in the URG Esports arena.



## Ohio University Campus Tour and Ballgame

On February 3, 2024, the CHOICES 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.



## T-Shirt Design Entrepreneurship

Students in the CHOICES program was able to choose the activity T-Shirt design and dabble in entrepreneurship. Students designed t-shirts, use the equipment and create a finished product. Students also designed water bottle stickers. They enjoyed learning the process and a skill they will be able to use in the future.



## Literacy & Numeracy Night

On March 7, 2024, Choices held a Literacy and Numeracy Night around the theme of sports for all the student body. Parents and the students enjoyed playing Kahoot with sports trivia, reading about outstanding athletes, and enjoying the math logic challenges that were set up in the cafeteria. Wrapping the evening up in the gym with Jerry Lucas speaking about the importance of reading. A signed basketball and other prizes were given out to luck individuals.



## 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 March 1, 2024, Samantha Shaffer, arranged a **Career Fair** for the entire student body to attend. The Career Fair had 37 visiting employees from about 27 organizations that spanned 16 career clusters. 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. On March 14, 2024, the **Academic Fair** was held at RVMS. The 8th grade students were required to do a project that focused on a career of their choice.





