



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



South Gallia Middle School

Site Coordinator: Carey Roberts / Karen Waugh

April 2022



## No Kidding Ohio: Straight Talk from Teen Parents

Gallia County recently received an Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting grant called No Kidding Ohio: Straight Talk from Teen Parents. The curriculum uses young parents as “peer educators” in the classroom to discuss the legal, financial, and emotional realities of being a teen parent. Students will be encouraged to delay parenting until they have followed the “success sequence” of completing an education, starting a career, and being in a committed relationship to help ensure they are financially and emotionally ready when they become a parent. The importance of fatherhood as well as understanding what a healthy relationship looks like was included in the presentation. The curriculum will have 3 interactive sessions: Telling Our Stories where peer educators share their personal stories and the realities of being a young parent. The second session was Understanding Paternity that covered the ways to establish paternity and the important role a father plays in the life of a child. The last session was Child Support and Money Matters in which students learned what the child support office does and how much it costs to raise a child. Students that attended all 3 sessions received a \$25.00 Walmart gift card.



## Foreign Exchanged Student Presentation

South Gallia Middle School has several foreign exchange students that attend their school. Lusine Jhangiryan from Armenia, presented to the C.H.O.I.C.E.S. program information about her country. Armenia is a former Soviet Republic nation in the mountainous region between of Asia and Europe. This small nation is divided into 8 regions, 23 counties, and 79 municipalities with a population of 3 million people. Armenia’s religion is predominantly a Christianity. Lusine shared with the students what it is like living in Armenia. She played some music and sang a song to the students. Through her eyes and words, students were able to understand the culture of Armenia a little bit better.



## New Bike Activity for C.H.O.I.C.E.S.

A bike activity has been established in South Gallia Middle School’s C.H.O.I.C.E.S. Afterschool program. The afterschool was able to purchase 6 Outroad mountain bikes and 6 Bell Revolution MIPS bike helmets for this adventure. The benefits of cycling include a decrease in stress and an increase in heart health, posture, and coordination. On warm, sunny days, the students enjoy biking around the school and their neighborhood seeing sites from a different perspective.



- \* **No Kidding Ohio program—February 14– 16**
- \* **Spring Advantage—March/April**
- \* **Kona Ice—April 20**
- \* **Treasure Your Family—April**
- \* **Summer Advantage—June 13- July 19**

## Gallia Winterfest

Our new family engagement, Gallia Winterfest, happened on February 19, 2022, in the Gallipolis City Park. This event not only drew in more than 1,200 community members and families, the surrounding counties, Mason, Jackson, Meigs, and Lawrence were in attendance, also. An ice sculptor, Tyson Whistler, displayed 9 sculptors throughout the park and held a live demonstration while carving a dragon. Family time was enjoyed by all during a scavenger hunt locating the different ice sculptures, ice skating, curling, hockey shoot, winning prizes at the Olaf games, and train ride. Everyone that registered received a free hot chocolate and a Kona Ice, a Chill Bag that contained an ice cream scoop, an ice scraper, and the children received a stuffed penguin or a Winterfest Bear as well as other prizes. This event was sponsored by GVES, Gallia County Job & Family Services, Gallia County Commissioners, and the City of Gallipolis.



## KONA ICE

The C.H.O.I.C.E.S. Afterschool program received a sweet visit from Kona Ice on April 20, 2022. Kona Ice is not a snow cone, slushie or slurpee, but a food truck that serves a one-of-a-kind, gourmet shaved ice experience. The truck pulled up to the school, turned on the colorful lights, tropical themed music and invited the students to step up and grab a cup of shaved ice. The students were able to pick from a variety of flavors such as Tiger's Blood, Pina Colada, Bubble Gum, Cotton Candy or choose to get a suicide which is a combination of all 10 flavors to add to their cup of shaved ice. A great way to end the program.



## Afterschool Spring Advisory Council Meeting

On April 5, 2022, Gallia County Afterschool Advisory Council met by way of zoom. Teachers, principals, students, parents, evaluators, and program managers of the programs of TIGERS, Highlanders, LIL Cats, CHOICES (RVMS, SGMS), and STEPS (RVHS, SGHS) were all invited to take part in the meeting. Each program highlighted their program sharing what worked well, favorites of the program and lessons learned. Students and parents had nothing but good things to say about their program.



## Tie Dye T-Shirts

The final days of the C.H.O.I.C.E.S. program, students created a colorful new shirt to wear this summer by learning the skill of Tie Dyeing. The afterschool purchased the t-shirts and a dye kit, and the students did all the work. Students chose which design they wanted for their shirt to determine how they folded and banded their shirts. The next decision was to choose color or colors and apply to the shirts. After the shirts were dried, students were very pleased with their new shirt.





