

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Aug. 28, 2020

**T**raditionally, my first column of the school year is to say “Welcome.” Welcome back to our returning staff members and welcome to those who are new to our campus or the Pickaway-Ross family.



I talk about upcoming events and give a little background on my column format.

But I think the best salutation I can give this year is “Wow!”

The 2019-2020 school year ended quietly as we concluded it through remote learning that started in March and had to cancel or revamp traditional spring events.

This year, we begin with a five-days-a-week in-person format amid an altered campus landscape: plastic dividers in classrooms and some common areas; additional hand-sanitizer stations; signs to promote safe-distance practices; and the wearing of masks.

Other than that, I can’t tell you what the school year will bring. In my decades of working in career-tech education, I’ve never experienced anything like what we’re going through now.

What I do know is that we will adapt. Pickaway-Ross teachers and administrators did just that last spring when we had to close the buildings. Our Custodial and Maintenance staff members did just that this summer to prepare for the fall.

And our students will do just that as we model behaviors to instill in them the skills needed for many of them to become essential workers.

Last week we started our year with the traditional in-service, implementing social distancing and having a trial run by our cafeteria staff members to demonstrate how students will be served.

In addition to recognizing staff members for a combined 250 years of service, we welcomed Zach Ray to the Pickaway-Ross family. Zach is our new school resource officer.

A graduate of Chillicothe High School, Zach earned his associate’s degree in law enforcement from Ohio University-Chillicothe and was certified in peace officer basic training from the Southern



**ABOVE:** Staff members gathered in the commons to hear from district administrators during last week’s in-service. **BELOW:** Zach Ray is our new school resource officer.

Ohio Police Training Institute.

Zach has worked for the Ross County Sheriff’s Office and while there he was issued awards in 2014 and 2017 for performing life-saving measures. In 2018 he was cited for outstanding performance. When you see him on campus, please welcome him.



We also had a day dedicated to professional development with the focus on Google Classroom. These sessions, led by your colleagues, are an example of how we work together — to help one another and our students.

As we complete our first full week of the 2020-21 school year, I look forward to all we will continue to accomplish together.

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