

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Sept. 6, 2019

It's hard to believe that we've been in school for almost a month.

A sure sign that the 2019-2020 school year is underway is next Friday's Battle of the Bands.

This year's band exhibition will feature participation by eight of our home schools. Circleville will kick off the event at 9:40, with Unioto, Adena, Westfall, Chillicothe, Logan Elm, Southeastern and Paint Valley each scheduled to follow about 7 minutes apart.

In years past, after the band performances were complete, students then could take part in an assortment of activities held outside, such as volleyball, basketball and corn hole. Lunch periods were adjusted to accommodate the activities.

This year, students will return to their fourth-period class and follow the regular lunch schedule.

Then, at 12:10, they will take part in GRIT Bash, created by the High Schools That Work committee and initiated by Principal Josh Younge.

The goal is to provide students with a little more structure, said Verdie Williams, a member of the High Schools That Work committee.

"What we had before resulted in a lot of students wandering around and some didn't get involved in any activities," she said.

This year's event features activities that focus on team building.

"These are not athletic activities," Verdie said.

Students will go outside and compete as a lab, juniors vs. seniors, rotating through 20 stations. Not every student will participate in every station, Verdie said.

On average, an activity may require a team of 2 to 6 students and others in the lab will cheer on their peers.

Lab instructors will stay with their students and academic teachers will have the choice to oversee an activity station or work with a lab instructor. Sign-up sheets for staff members will be in the



The High Schools That Work committee created a school initiative – GRIT – that encourages good student behavior. The team also has created GRIT Bash, which will take place next Friday after the last lunch period.

Director's Complex through Friday.

Teachers are encouraged to explain GRIT Bash to students ahead of next Friday.

Verdie said the overall goal is to provide students with an opportunity to connect.

"Juniors are still feeling their way around. This will help them become part of a group and a part of the Pickaway-Ross family.

"Students often leave their home school and blossom here. We hope these activities will be a fun way for them to get involved," Verdie said.

Jason Vesey, director of Secondary Education, said the team-building activities will stress the importance of communication, working together for a common goal and building community within the student body.

Verdie said that students who have earned GRIT status during the year will be allowed to take part in a GRIT Bash in May.

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**Note:** The Career Tech Matters column will appear every other week until further notice.

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