

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 20, 2020

Our community engagement has certainly been a victim to the pandemic. While promoting Pickaway-Ross through community events is a big part of our initiatives, much has been put on the back burner this school year.



However, the LAMPS committee is planning a COVID-safe fun and free family event next month.

A Santa Sighting at Pickaway-Ross is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Crouse Chapel Road campus.

We are inviting families to bring their school-age children (kindergarten through fifth grade) to see Santa Claus from their vehicles. Children will drop off a letter to Santa (parents/guardians will need to provide a self-addressed envelope) and receive a kit to make a craft. Cocoa and cookies also will be provided.

English teacher Katie Hewitt and her Student Council members have stepped up to help Santa and Mrs. Claus (Rick and Katt Marriott; Katt is our Workforce Transitions coordinator).

Juniors Keyshawn Shepherd and Trace Yocum, council members and students in Mark Johnston's Engineering program, are creating a Santa's workshop-themed background that will allow Santa to wave to children as they turn in their letters.

"Opportunities like this event allow Engineering students to practice their technical skills and their ability to collaborate and work successfully with others," Mark said.

"When students enter the workforce, the ability to work well with others will often prove to be a more valuable skill than their subject content knowledge."

The following week, students in English classes will don their elf hats to help Santa answer the letters.

"A big part of Student Council is community service and engagement," Katie said.

"With the pandemic, so much of the extra-curricular activities have been curtailed. Council members were excited to take the lead on this



Teachers Katie Hewitt and Mark Johnston talk with Trace Yocum about the background scene for the event.



Juniors Keyshawn Shepherd (far left) and Trace Yocum, council members and Engineering students, are creating the background that will allow Santa to wave to the children.

event."

McDonald's in Chillicothe is providing cups and lids for hot cocoa, which will be handed out with cookies from Student Council. McDonald's, a long-time supporter of Pickaway-Ross events, is also donating certificates for a free dessert to each child.

Jason Vesey, director of Secondary Education, said planning the event, like so many things this year, is a bit of a roller coaster.

"We have to get to work, hoping that COVID numbers don't force us to cancel. But I think it's important that we try to provide some stability — and fun — for our students and our community during this time," he said.

Organizers are planning to have crafts and treats for 100 children during the two-hour event. Event updates will be posted on Pickaway-Ross' Facebook and Twitter pages.

For more information, call (740) 642-1301.

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