The 2017-2018 school year began on August 16th with just under 600 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students at Visintainer.

“We have a lot of new students, not only in the 6th grade but 7th & 8th as well” Mr. Sharosky, Visintainer principal, said. “We have about 40 more in the 6th grade alone. I take that as a compliment that people want to come to our school.”

Mr. Sharosky is back for his fifth year as Principal. He was previously a principal in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools and the Twinsburg City Schools.

“It is my great pleasure to be part of the tremendous Brunswick City Schools. We really have a family that is the staff of Visintainer and we add our parents and students to that family.” Sharosky said.

“We are committed to preparing our students for the 21st century and beyond. Our mission statement reflects this commitment,” Sharosky said. “Our mission is ‘We will prepare all students for college and life by providing a challenging curriculum (RIGOR) that connects students’ lives and their future (RELEVANCE) in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment (RELATIONSHIPS).’

In addition, our building motto this year is ‘Get on the B.U.S.’ B.U.S. is an acronym for ‘Build Upon Success.’ Sharosky said.

We have added a “Pride Time” to the students schedule to provide enrichment and remediation activities as well as the social/emotional programs the kids need.

Teachers are working hard on planning meaningful assignments that connect to the standards established by the state of Ohio.

One of the things done to prepare students to pass the state-mandated tests and make their learning more meaningful is the continuation of academic teams and refinement of Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s).

The 6th grade team consists of Ms. Banevich & Mrs. Jeppe (LA), Mrs. Carlisle & Mrs. Schweisthal (math), Mrs. Wolf & Mr. Yoak (Science) and Mrs. Grebey & Mrs. Shepherd.
Visintainer is proud to introduce their “new” staff members for the 2017-2018 school year: Hayley Collis, Andrea Ryan, Veronica Sefchik, Laura Shelley, Jeannette Timko, Janie Wornoff and Jeff Zvara.

Hayley Collis is new to Brunswick and Visintainer. She completed a long-term sub position in the Bedford City Schools after successfully completing her student teaching in the Twinsburg City Schools. Miss Collis will be working at both Visintainer and Edwards as an Intervention Specialist.

Andrea Ryan grew up in Rochester, New York. She attended Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music for her undergraduate degree in music education. Ms. Ryan is a violinist who has studied with world-renown violin teachers Julian Ross and Hartmut Ometzberger. She has previously taught music in the district at the elementary level and at Willetts MS. She is “new” to Visintainer this school year.

Ms. Ryan will be teaching 6th grade orchestra at Edwards, Visintainer, and Willetts middle schools. She also teaches 6th grade choir at Visintainer and an adaptive music class at Willetts.

“Visintainer welcomes “new” staff

In addition to my classes in Brunswick, I teach private lessons and assist with the Youth Orchestra Program through the Baldwin Wallace Community Music School.” She said.

Ms. Ryan enjoys listening to music, reading, traveling, and playing with her cat in her spare time.

Veronica Sefchik is new to teaching, Brunswick, and Visintainer. The Ohio University grad completed her student teaching in North Royalton and will be joining Visintainer this year as an Intervention Specialist.

“This is my second year of teaching. Some of my hobbies include yoga, running, cooking, and traveling. One of my favorite cities is Washington D.C. I am recently engaged and will be getting married next summer. I am looking forward to another fun-filled year of working with students!”

Visintainer 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Meczka, welcomed a new addition to her family this Summer and will be on family leave until the second semester. So Visintainer will welcome “new” teacher Laura Shelley. She will be the guest teacher for Mrs. Meczka’s 8th grade math & science classes.

“I am from Stow, Ohio. This May, I graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in Middle Childhood Education with my concentration areas being math and science. Growing up I have always wanted to be a teacher. I have a love for school and learning and a passion for passing my love onto students.” Miss Shelley said.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family including two dogs and a cat.

“My family also foster kittens from the humane society until they are ready for adoption.”

While in high school I participated in competitive cheerleading through American Elite All-Stars. I also have a love for music, I play piano and violin and was in the orchestra from 5th grade up through high school.

“I am very excited to be working here in Brunswick and I can’t wait to see my students grow during my time here!”

Unlike some of the other “new” teachers, Jeannette Timko is not new to teaching, teaching music, or teaching in the Brunswick City Schools. She is “new” to teaching.

Homework Club provides student support

Once again this year Visintainer is continuing the opportunity for students to get help with their homework-the aptly titled “Homework Club”

“Homework club is not assigned, rather it is an opportunity for students to stay and get help willingly. Teachers can communicate this to parents as an option and can work with students during this time if they wish.” Assistant Principal, Jessica Boytim, said.

Homework Club meets every Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 3 to 4 pm in the Viz library. Students can stay and work with their friends on homework and projects. If they choose to stay we ask that they remain until 4 pm. A snack is provided for all students that attend.

(Continued on page 6)
Assistant Principal Spotlight

Mrs. Boytim joins us at Visintainer for her fourth year as Assistant Principal.

“I am looking forward to the school year and working with our students, parents and staff. We have many things to look forward to this year and I am happy to share in these moments with our Visintainer family.”

Mrs. Boytim has been in Brunswick City Schools for 10 years. She considers it a privilege to serve in this community. Prior to Brunswick, Mrs. Boytim received degrees from John Carroll University and The University of Akron.

Mrs. Boytim spends most of her time with her husband and daughters, Evelyn and Josephine and bulldog, Wrigley. Mrs. Boytim also enjoys outdoor activities such as: hiking, camping, running, and cycling. The Boytim family is also big Cleveland sports fans, too!

In her spare time she enjoys cooking, and spending time with her friends and extended family.

“Please feel free to call, email or stop in whenever there is a need. I am happy to help in any way I can. Have a great school year!”

Viz Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome students, parents, teachers and staff back to school! We hope you have a great school year! PTO has many activities planned for this school year! Here are just a few!

Visintainer’s Walk for Excellence is scheduled for Friday, September 15th. Students bringing in donations of $20 or more by Sept. 8th, will receive a t-shirt and be entered into a drawing for a spirit wear prize package. Students completing the donation form, and bringing in the monetary donation, will be eligible to participate in the walk the last 2 periods on Friday, September 15th! Snacks and activities are planned for the event.

We will partner again with Marco’s Pizza. When families order from Marco’s on that day, a portion of the proceeds comes back to PTO. Our next Marco’s pizza night is September 27th. Don’t forget to give them the name of your child’s PRIDE time teacher. The Pride time class with the most orders gets a pizza party!

Spirit wear sales will occur during October. Students may pay via cash or check made out to Visintainer PTO. Spirit wear and “Class of” order forms will be available.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase popcorn on “Popcorn Fridays” during their PRIDE time. Only 50 cents a bag! Our next “Popcorn Friday” will be November 3rd.

Please join us for the first PTO meeting September 14th @ 7:00 in the school cafeteria. Superintendent Mike Mayell will be presenting information about the bond issue to build a new middle school.

Interested in volunteering? Interested in knowing about school activities? Contact Visintainer PTO at: Vizpto@gmail.com or find us on Facebook “Visintainer PTO” or sign up for Remind to receive text message reminders. Text 81010 and enter @vizp in the message box or email to vizp@mail.remind.com
Fall Sports began their seasons under the grueling August sun. Teams began practicing in cheerleading, cross country, football, and volleyball. For all sports, Visintainer combines student-athletes with the kids at Edwards Middle School to form the “Brunswick South” teams.

The cheerleading squad will be under the direction of Elizabeth Rinkes a 5th grade teacher at Kidder Elementary School.

In the 8th grade Emily Kinney, Grace Mewhinney, and Madison Wyatt are part of the football squad while Ava Flood, Tori Ganda, Haley Stasik & Kyra Whelan are on the basketball squad. Olivia Morgan and Kylieigh Uhrina are on both squads. The cheerleaders perform at the football games and the boys basketball games.

In the 7th grade Lexi Dempsey & Sydney Kowell are football cheerleaders; Faith Glass, Morgan Kolesar & Julia Williams will cheer for basketball; Emma Hovanec, Olivia Mascia, and Morgyn Woodring are on both squads.

Brunswick South also features two cross country teams and they are coached by Mrs. Bender (girls) and Mrs. Hunter (boys).

Mrs. Bender is a school psychologist at Edwards Middle School and Brunswick High School. This is her 17th year working in the district. She has had the privilege of coaching girls cross country for the past eleven years. She enjoys the challenge of keeping up with and/or beating her much younger runners! In her free time, she is an avid runner and enjoys spending time with her family. She lives in Medina with her husband and step-daughter.

Mrs. Wendy Hunter is a 5th grade teacher at Huntington Elementary School. This is her 17th year coaching XC for Brunswick South. Although, her husband is the varsity cross country coach at Brunswick High.

Running across field and meadows for the boys are Viz 8th grader, Adam Hyde, and 7th graders Josh Krecic, Aidan Lotarski, & Zach Whelan. They are joined by their teammates from Edwards MS.

The girls team includes Abby Bardwell, Ava Boodheshwar, Emilie Dobranski, Ella Hruschak, Teodora Iovi, Allyssa Mann, Nile Savina, Mariah Skocic, Alexis Smerek, Lindsay Wolf, & Paige Wood.

The 7th grade football team has 24 athletes under the direction of Mr. Buchner, head coach. Mr. Buchner teaches 7th grade math and social studies at Edwards MS. This is Coach Buchner’s 17th year of teaching and coaching. Mr. Buchner is married and has two children. Assisting with the team is Brian Lemmer. Mr. Lemmer is a physical education teacher at Hickory Ridge.

This year’s team features Chase Buchner, Ryan Crabtree, Troy DiFranco, Jayce Dye, Dante Grassa, Drew Harvey, Michael Kerr, Daniel Looker, Cameron Lusnek, Henry Maties, Anthony Nero, Jack Safko, Brendon Slama, James Snider, Caid Som, Mario Tripp, Anthony Wojtala, and Kyle Zahniser.

Eighth grade team members include Derek Cornielo, Zach Eyssen, Nathan Fahrn, Antho-
...Getting on the B.U.S. cont...

(Continued from page 1)
(Social Studies). Mrs. Davidson is the main Intervention Specialist for the 6th grade. Mrs. Studor also has sixth grade students.

The 7th grade core teachers are Miss Delnay & Mrs. Lykins (LA), Ms. Colosi, Mrs. Jakub & Mr. Bambauer (Science), Mrs. Metzger & Mr. Thompson (Social Studies) and Mrs. Zielaskiewicz & Mrs. Young (Math). Mrs. Heffner and Miss Collis are the Intervention Specialists.

The 8th grade team this year features Mrs. Gribbon (LA), Mrs. Novak (Science), Mrs. Hanchuk (Math), & Mrs. McCune (Social Studies). Mrs. Dooling teaches both LA & Science. Mrs. Meczkowska has both math & science and Mrs. Davis has classes in LA & Social Studies. Miss Collins, Miss Sefchik, and Mrs. Studor are the 8th grade Intervention Specialists.

Besides the core teachers, Visintainer is fortunate to have the Encore Tribe. The Encore Tribe is Miss Schultz (Art), Mrs. Ebert (Technology), Mrs. Wornoff & Mr. Zvara (Health), Mr. Raybar & Mrs. Timko (Band), Mrs. Barko & Miss Ryan (Orchestra), Mr. Albright & Miss Ryan (Choir), Mr. Clark (P.E.), and Mr. Estera (P.E.). Mrs. Metzger and Mrs. Zielaskiewicz also teach technology classes. Mr. Bambauer (7th) and Mrs. Jakub (8th) teach the Project Lead the Way classes.

“Our Viz family also includes our support staff including Mrs. Eberwein and Mrs. Guddy who serve as paraprofessionals. We also have a library paraprofessional, Mr. Clapp, Mrs. Busovicki and Ms. Fleming are the office secretaries and Mrs. Boytim is the Assistant Principal.” Mr. Sharosky said.

We also have a very hard-working and caring cafeteria staff including Mrs. Crow, Mrs. Slepecky, Mrs. Morselli, and Mrs. Jeffrey.

Keeping Visintainer in tip-top shape includes Mr. Savage, our site manager, and our two custodians Mr. Klaas and Mrs. Mooreman.

Mr. Sharosky and Mrs. Boytim met with 6th, 7th, & 8th grade classes the first week of school to discuss expectations with the students.

“Besides letting the kids know what our expectations are for them” Mrs. Boytim said, “we also discussed the positive aspects of Visintainer. This year, the staff will continue to reward students for their efforts and we will honor students as ‘Students of the Week’ and ‘Month.’ This along with the ‘positive referrals’ and PRIDE tickets that the students earn for positive contributions to school will enhance the learning atmosphere at Viz.

Viz procedures clarified

In the first few weeks of school, please make sure to peruse the 2017-18 student handbook located in the front of your student’s agenda and online for specific details regarding guidelines and procedures specific to our building.

Please note a few rules communicated to students this year: Cell phones—students are allowed to have their phone on their person or in their locker. However for safety and educational purposes, all devices should be shut off during the school day (unless permitted by the teacher). If students’ devices are on, in sight or in use, they will be confiscated and sent to the office. A parent/guardian must pick up the device if it is confiscated. Please continue, as parents, to help us educate children on the proper use of electronic devices. These are powerful tools and when students make mistakes with them, they can often times be large ones, which may involve law enforcement.

Footwear—please be mindful of the shoes that your student wears to school. If your student wears a sandal, it must have back strap on the shoe (like the picture). Flip Flops and Slides are not permitted. Pants—ALL yoga, pants, leggings, and tight-fitting sweat pants or material are NOT permitted. Leggings are acceptable if they have a top longer than fingertip length with a student’s hands to his/her side.

Thank you for your help in supporting our student code of conduct and expectations at Visintainer Middle School. If you have any questions, please review the handbook or call the office.
Visintainer Guidance Department

Mrs. Kathy Rhoads is the school counselor at Visintainer Middle School. She is the only counselor for the nearly 600 students at Viz. “Mrs. Rhoads does a tremendous job. She is responsible for making sure all of the students have a schedule. When new students come in, she does the induction and makes them a schedule. In addition to all of that, she responds to the emotional and social needs of the students.” Mr. Sharosky said.

“Thank you to the 8th Grade “Blue Crew” for assisting with 6th grade orientation to start this school year!” Mrs. Rhoads said. The Blue Crew will also be assisting to kick off our “Visintainer Virtues” program in September.

The Visintainer Virtues program is designed to encourage positive character traits in our students through school wide activities and weekly classroom discussions. Classroom Guidance Lessons will be starting in September. Sixth grade lessons will focus on building social skills. Seventh grade lessons will help students focus on their emotional well-being, while eighth grade will begin discussing career readiness.

In addition to what Mrs. Rhoads does, Visintainer is fortunate enough to have a Student Assistance Counselor, a F.A.C.T Counselor and counselors from Ohio Guidestone in our building on a weekly basis to assist with the needs of our students. If you feel your child could benefit from meeting with one of our counselors, or have any questions regarding these programs, please contact Mrs. Rhoads.

New staff continued....

Coverage from page 2) at Visintainer.

Mrs. Timko has spent the last 25 years teaching band, choir, orchestra and general music. The 2017-18 school year, she will be teaching 6th grade band and choir at all three middle schools. She received her musical training at Baldwin-Wallace University and the University of Illinois.

“I am very excited to join the middle school music team!”

Mrs. Timko is a Master Teacher and received the "Teacher of the Year" at Crestview in 2011.

Janie Wornoff is “new” to Visintainer this year, but not new to Brunswick or even middle school as she has been a teacher at Edwards Middle School.

“I graduated from Cleveland State University and have a Masters Degree from the University of Akron. This is my 23rd year teaching in Brunswick. I love teaching at the middle school, watching them change and blossom is amazing. I will be teaching Health at both Edwards and Visintainer this year. I am excited to get the chance to know all the 7th graders in both buildings this year.”

Mrs. Wornoff is also a member of the Brunswick community.

“I have a 7th grade daughter who goes to Edwards Middle School and a supportive loving husband. We have lived here for 7 years and really love the neighborhood. You may see us with our 3 dogs walking around the lake on cool evenings.” She said.

Jeff Zvara is hardly “new” to Brunswick. He is actually returning to Visintainer to teach.

“Quick background on myself, my family moved to Brunswick in January of 1972. I attended Brunswick Schools K-12 (1988 Grad). My wife is also a teacher at Brunswick High School. She is a social studies teacher and Department Head. My wife, her parents, and grandparents all attended Brunswick Schools K-12. We have two sons Paul who is 10 and Brock who will be 7 at the end of September.”

Something “new” for Mr. Zvara is in addition to his time at the middle schools, he is back coaching football this Fall at Brunswick High.

Welcome to all of the “new” staff.
Fall Sports Update continued...

(Continued from page 4)

ny Fuller, Gavin Harry, Justin Hovan, Paul Lembicz, Anthony Monachino, Connor O’Leary, Brandon Rick, Jason Safko, Connin Som, Adam Wagner, Romel White, Luke Wilmot, and Nick Wojton

The 8th grade team is coached by Mr. Esterak and Mr. Yoak.

Mr. Esterak is a physical education teacher at Visintainer. This marks “Mr. E’s” 20th year teaching in the Brunswick School District (17th at Visintainer, first 3 at Applewood) and 20th year coaching.

Many of his players have gone on to play basketball at the collegiate level. Mr. E is also well known for his coaching within the Brunswick schools as he is the Head 8th Grade Football Coach (19th year) and the Track Coach (14th) in Brunswick.

Mr. Yoak is in his fifth year of teaching at Visintainer. He transitioned last year to his first love—science. Mr. Yoak will be teaching science in the 6th grade. He is the co-advisor of Student Council. He has also coached girls basketball and track.

The Volleyball teams are under the direction of Mr. Wenmoth (8th grade) and Mrs. Peffer-Gregory (7th grade). This is Mr. Wenmoth’s 13th year coaching the Lady Blue Devils South team and his 20th year teaching at Edwards MS. Although he resides in Medina, he is a Brunswick boy at heart. He lives with his wife, Dina, who teaches Art at Edwards, his 7-year-old son Joshua and their miniature schnauzer “Sammy.” Mr. and Mrs. Wenmoth welcomed a baby girl, Anna, to the family three years ago.

Mrs. Cathleen Peffer-Gregory is a second grade teacher at Kidder Elementary. She is beginning her third year coaching volleyball for South. She also coaches track in the Spring at Visintainer. Mrs. Peffer-Gregory is a 5th grade teacher at Kidder Elementary.

Keylee Ciacchi, Carlie Fox, Leah Hoover, Madison Lindsey, Katrina Roberts, and Emily Sav-...
Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I know the staff and I are looking forward to an excellent year at Visintainer.

We are continuing our programs to recognize students for achievement. The “Student of the Week” program recognizes students from each grade as selected by the teachers. Students can be selected for academic or good citizenship reasons. Students receive a candy treat along with a certificate. Students of the Month are also selected by the teachers. They receive a certificate, a t-shirt and a candy treat. We will also be recognizing students for being on the Honor and Merit rolls. Next month’s issue of the Blue Devil Times will highlight our September Super Students.

The lost and found section at Visintainer is in the cafeteria. Lost textbooks and binders are turned in as well as any clothing or shoes found. Please remember to have names on everything. Things that have names on them are returned to the students. Things without names end up in the lost and found.

Absences and tardies are normal as students are learning where their classes are and learning their new schedules. If students do miss class because of illness, please make sure they see their teachers for any missed assignments. When students are going to be absent, please call the attendance line (24 hrs. a day) at (330) 273-0448.

Next week (Sept. 8th, 2017) is the annual “Rally in the Alley” prior to the football game starting at 5 pm. The rally is in the courtyard next to the PAC at the high school. See the district web site for more information.

Having recently completed my 25th year in middle school, I know middle schoolers are not the most communicative about what happens at school. I am committed to making this newsletter and our web site sources of information for parents. But, that being said, please do not hesitate to contact the office with any concerns. I would encourage you to follow me on Twitter at @bsharosky I will tweet out school updates. I will also be emailing students and families.