



SWLCONNECT

SOUTHWEST LICKING LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUGUST 2022



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

DR. KASEY PERKINS. SUPERINTENDENT
MR. MICHAEL TANCHEVSKI. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
DR. TANYA MOORE. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM
MR. DANIEL DAVIS. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES
MR. RICHARD JONES. TREASURER



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Catherine Spindler, President
Debra Moore, Vice-President
Kandee Engle, Member
John Vincent, Member
Roger Zeune, Member



Dr. Kasey Perkins

Superintendent

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Superintendent of Southwest Licking Local Schools. When I took this position three years ago, I could not have imagined what would happen in the world, let alone our school community in just a few short months. As I reflect back to the beginning of the pandemic, and the tremendous strides we have made since then, it is difficult to remember when we were delivering meals on school busses and educating kids remotely. Our staff did an excellent job as we continued to move forward and against the odds, brought our students back in person full-time the following year. As time passes, many will forget the masks, the assigned lunch seats, the recess pods, the cleaning protocols, and the one-way hallways. However, I hope that as a school community we always remember coming together for our students to support them during this time of uncertainty.

It is important not to forget all of the ways in which this district has grown over the last few years despite outside variables in our world. We now have an agriculture program that is allowing our students to experience responsibility with cultivating crops, growing their own food, raising chickens, and coming in the 2023-2024 school year our very own food forest. Let us not forget the green house that will open when the renovated middle school is complete this fall. The new green house is a direct reflection on our community commitment to our students as we won the State Farm Grant by our families voting. Our agricultural program is just one of so many ways our students have hands-on opportunities to grow in our schools.

Our renovations continue around the district with the renovated middle school opening this fall and renovations starting this winter at Kirkersville. Our new tennis courts, baseball, and softball fields are set to open during the 22-23 school year, with the new elementary opening during the 24-25 school year. As these amazing buildings continue undergoing renovations, I would continue encouraging everyone to stay in the know with our growth studies and next steps for the SWL educational community.

We are fortunate to attract many talented teachers and support staff, and have already hired 50 new staff for the 2022-2023 school year. This will allow us to continue providing a rich academic experience with numerous co-curricular opportunities for our students. We will welcome all staff back at our August Convocation on the 15th as we kick off the school year for our students.

During the 21-22 school year, a committee comprised of teachers, district leaders, parents and business constituents, collaborated on a strategic plan for the district. This plan will guide the district as we focus on our four vision areas: student learning, culture and inclusivity, student experience and finances and facilities.

- Student Learning- Challenging every student to expand their mindset and consider new opportunities and ideas while maximizing their individual potential.
- Culture and Inclusivity- Cultivating an inclusive community where all students find acceptance and feel valued.
- Student Experience- Creating engaging opportunities that allow students to find their purpose, pursue their passions and make connections.
- Finances and Facilities- Bringing the community together by providing innovating learning spaces with a focus on fiscal responsibility and transparency.

These four vision areas will help drive the mission of our district and individual school buildings. We are looking forward to another outstanding school year and cannot wait to see all of the contributions from our SWL students during the 22-23 school year.

Best wishes for an outstanding school year,

Dr. Kasey Perkins, Superintendent

Mr. Michael Tanchevski

Assistant Superintendent



With the 2021-2022 school year behind us, we congratulate the Class of 2022. We look forward to their many achievements and accomplishments. This past year a number of staff members transitioned out of the district, we thank them for their service and wish them the best of luck in future endeavors. We are very excited to welcome a new group of talented and eager staff members throughout the district. We continue to attract intelligent and capable educators committed to teaching and learning.

We are busy readying our facilities for the 2022-2023 school year. Preparations include strategic use of resources to improve grounds and facilities throughout the district. Enhancements include improving playground access at Etna Elementary School, improved drainage on and around the Watkins Memorial High School parking lots and athletic facilities, as well as revamping practice and playground areas behind Watkins Memorial High School and Watkins Intermediate School.

Our commitment to improving student learning outcomes continues with an increased emphasis on student literacy skills. The addition of literacy specialists in grades K-5 provides the necessary interventions and support to ensure that all students realize their full literacy capabilities and graduate with the skills essential to succeed in college, the workforce, or the military.





Dr. Tanya Moore

Director of Curriculum

SWL Digital Academy

Fall Student/Parent orientation will be Wednesday, August 10th at 6:30 PM in Watkins Intermediate School cafeteria. This is for students and their parents that are enrolled in the Digital Academy.

SWL Digital Academy enrollment is open to students in grades 6-12 who attend or reside in the Southwest Licking Local School District. Students must be full-time students and enroll for a minimum of five classes, unless fewer classes are needed to meet graduation requirements.

Who Should Enroll?

- Students who are already successfully learning at home but whose home-schooling is insufficiently comprehensive and requires the kind of augmentation offered by SWLDA's formal and standards-based online curriculum.
- Students who desire to move through the curriculum at their own pace.
- Students with medical issues that require a more personalized curricular approach.
- Students who have been removed from school for disciplinary reasons but who are committed to and capable of regaining their focus on academic pursuits in the independent and solitary context of online instruction delivered in their homes.
- Students who need to recover previously failed courses and are full-time with the digital academy.

If you want to learn more about the SWL Digital Academy, please contact Ryan Brown at rbrown@laca.org or call us at 740-927-5901.

#WarriorProud

Help us communicate the great things happening at Southwest Licking Schools!

To submit highlights for our social media posts, please send to 740-963-9816 or email to swlcommunications@swl.k12.oh.us.

Follow Us:



COFFEE TALK AND OPEN OFFICE HOURS

COFFEE TALKS

September 27

October 25

November 29

January 24

February 28

April 25

ALL COFFEE TALKS WILL BE AT DEPOT STREET COFFEE HOUSE AT 9:00 AM

OPEN OFFICE HOURS

OCTOBER 11 AT 5:00 PM AT SWL DISTRICT OFFICE
JANUARY 10 AT 5:00 PM AT SWL DISTRICT OFFICE
MARCH 7 AT 5:00 PM AT SWL DISTRICT OFFICE
MAY 9 AT 5:00 PM AT SWL DISTRICT OFFICE

Mr. Daniel Davis

Director of Student Services

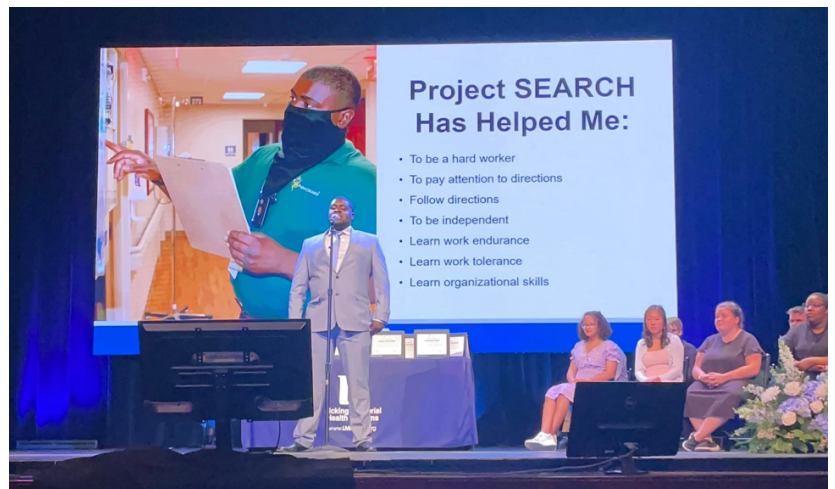


Supporting a Peer-Based Learning Model

In developing appropriate instruction and supports for our students with disabilities, it is always our goal to place students in their least restrictive environment. Recently, SWL received high marks for exceeding state expectations in serving students with disabilities in their general education classroom, alongside their peers. Our teachers, administrators, and support staff, go above and beyond to provide individualized instruction for our various learners that allow them to achieve their academic and social goals and do it in an appropriate setting.

Project Search Graduate

The annual Project SEARCH graduation was held in May at the Midland Theater in Newark, OH. Project SEARCH is a one-year, school-to-work transition program offered only to a select handful of qualifying students from the area. There were eight graduates from Licking County in the class of 2022. Participating in the program from Southwest Licking was Mr. Eli Stephens. Eli was recommended for Project SEARCH by his former teachers and principals, many of whom were able to attend the ceremony and celebrate his achievements with him.



Eli participated in three job experience rotations at Licking Memorial Hospital throughout the year. The employment experiences allowed Eli to gain invaluable employability skills as he worked with hospital managers, job coaches, and teachers. Eli noted that the program has better equipped him to be an independent employee, become well organized, and develop the work skills that will help him succeed in his future endeavors.

Southwest Licking Schools is very proud to have Eli represent the Warrior Community as he will undoubtedly continue to do great things in the workforce.

In The News

Ellie Messer is one of our young Warrior's who has faced many challenges in her life yet continues to beat expectations and define her own future. Read more about her journey using the QR code.





TREASURER UPDATE

Richard Jones, Treasurer

There are multiple ways to obtain information regarding financial information for Southwest Licking Local Schools. First, most information can be found on our website, <https://www.swl.k12.oh.us/TreasurersDepartment.aspx>. In addition to the financial information, there is a link to Ohio Checkbook. The Ohio Checkbook serves as the singular and most trusted resource for Ohioans to obtain both local and state financial information. The Ohio Checkbook is a result of a joint initiative from two first-of-their-kind sites, Ohiocheckbook.com and Ohio's Interactive Budget. The collective effort enhances government transparency by providing real-time state financial and transactional data. The link included on the Treasurer's office webpage will take you to Southwest Licking's financial information. Once have been redirected to the Ohio Checkbook website, you can click on "OHIOCHECKBOOK" located at the top left of the page to obtain financial information on other governmental entities.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Robert Jennell, Project Manager



In the spring of 2019, the Southwest Licking Local Schools held a kickoff for the start of their multi-million dollar co-funded building project with the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC). During the past three years, the District has either opened or reopened three buildings: a new 92,000 square foot intermediate building for students in grades 4 and 5, a new 240,000 square foot high school for students in grades 9-12 and a renovated 55,000 square foot K-3 Etna Elementary. These two new builds and Etna's renovation are now benefitting our students by providing audio enhancement capabilities in each classroom, Clevertouch Interactive Displays, new fire alarm and sprinkler systems, new LED lighting, new and updated HVAC systems, secure front entrances, and much more.

As we begin the third year of the project, the District's focus has shifted to the transformation of the 151,000 square foot old high school into the new Watkins Middle School for students in grades 6-8. The update/renovation has been making great progress during a very difficult construction period. The project has been impacted by the consequences of the pandemic (manpower), shortage of materials, increases in cost and delays in shipping. Shipping delays have affected many of the key areas of the building project including the air handling units, electrical panels, windows, doors and cabling. Unfortunately, a delay of a single item can and often does affect the timeline of other items. Robertson Construction, Garmann and Miller, the OSFC, and the Southwest Licking Schools, are working together to complete this important part of the District's master plan as quickly as possible without reducing the quality of the finished building. A newly established opening date for the renovated middle school has been set for October 26, 2022.

As you drive by the new western campus, you will see construction activity on the east side of Warrior Way. This area will soon be home to six new tennis courts, two softball diamonds and a baseball field.

The District appreciates the support and patience of the community for the inconvenience and mess during the new construction and renovation phases.

IMPORTANT DATES



GENERAL DATES

August 10 - Teachers and Transportation Released

August 17

- First Day of School K-5 (Last Names A-K)
- First Day of School Grades 6 and 9

August 18

- First Day of School K-5 (Last Names L-Z)
- First Day of School - Early Learning Center

August 17 - 20 - Visit our Street Fair Booth

BUILDING EVENTS

Early Learning Center

- August 16th - Open House (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm)
- August 18th - First day of School ALL students

K-3 Buildings (Etna, Kirkersville, Pataskala)

- August 15th - Open House / Supply Drop-Off (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm)
- September 27th - Watch DOGS Kick-Off (6:00 pm)

Watkins Intermediate School

- August 15th - Open House / Supply Drop-Off (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm)
- September 6th - 4th Grade Curriculum Night (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
- September 7th - 5th Grade Curriculum (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
- September 14th -16th - 5th Grade Camp (in-house)
- September 27th - Watch DOGS Kick-Off (6:00 pm)

Watkins Middle School

- August 9th-10th - Schedule Pick-Up (8:00 am - 2:00 pm)
- August 15th - 6th Grade Orientation (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
- August 17th - 7th-8th Grade Orientation (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

Watkins Memorial High School

- August 11th - Warrior Check-In
 - 12th grade - 8:00 am - 10:00 am
 - 11th grade - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 - 10th grade - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 - 9th grade - 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- August 23rd
 - Meet the Teacher (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
 - Freshmen / New Student Family Meeting (7:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

2021-2022



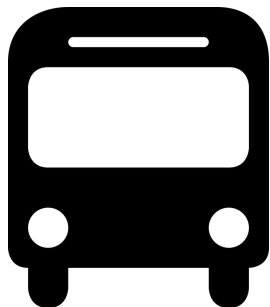
HIGHLIGHTS





TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Ryan Brown, Director of Logistics



We wanted to provide a few important dates and reminders as we get ready to transport your children to and from school this year. All students wanting transportation should have completed their Final Forms transportation information. If you have any changes, those changes must be made prior to August 4th for them to be effective for the first day of school. Any changes made after August 4th will not be ready until August 31st. During the school year if you need to make transportation changes, you must update Final Forms and complete the transportation change form located on our website under parents, forms, district forms, and then transportation change form. Lastly, we will email out students' busing information on August 10th. If you have any additional questions, please contact the transportation department.

FINAL FORMS INFORMATION

FINAL FORMS

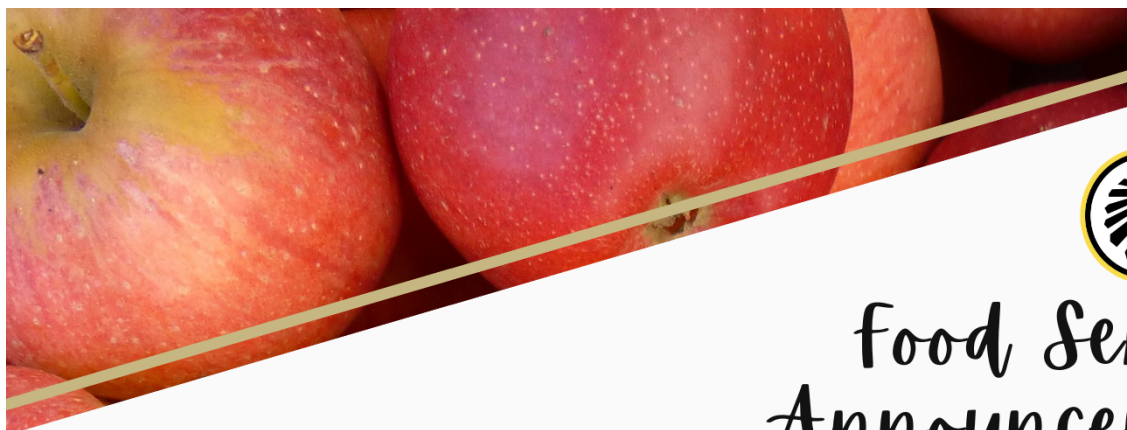
It is very important that you fill out your child's information in Final Forms prior to beginning school in order for your child to receive his/her teacher assignment / class schedule. The information that you submit in Final Forms will also be what teachers use to let you know who your child's teacher will be. ALL STUDENTS will need to update their forms annually to ensure that we have the most up to date information for each student.

Questions?

Contact: swldistrictoffice@swl.k12.oh.us

FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Cindy Pickering, Food Service Supervisor



Food Service Announcement

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

It was good while it lasted....USDA announced that school meals will **no longer** be free for everyone in the 2022-23 school year.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

STUDENTS WILL NEED TO PAY FOR BREAKFAST & LUNCH DAILY UNLESS PARENT/GUARDIAN APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR FREE MEALS. YOU MUST APPLY EVERY SCHOOL YEAR.

HOW DO I APPLY?

AFTER JULY 1, 2022 AND BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS GO TO WWW.MYSCHOOLAPPS.COM TO APPLY

WHAT IF I DON'T APPLY OR QUALIFY?

STUDENTS MUST PAY FOR MEALS. PRICING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BUT ESTIMATED TO BE:

\$1.25-\$1.50 BREAKFAST (ALL GRADES)

\$2.75-\$3.25 (K-5) LUNCH

\$3.00-\$3.50 MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH

\$3.25-\$3.75 HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH

HOW DO I ADD \$ TO MY STUDENT'S MEAL ACCOUNT?

GO TO WWW.MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM TO ADD MONEY USING DEBIT/CREDIT CARD OR STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT CASH/CHECKS IN A MARKED ENVELOPE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY.

Further questions contact:

Carmen Murphy @ carmurphy@laca.org

Cindy Pickering @ cpickering@laca.org



Southwest Licking Local School District

927 A South Street
Pataskala OH 43062

740.927.3941
www.swl.k12.oh.us

STAY INFORMED



WEBSITE: WWW.SWL.K12.OH.US



FACEBOOK: FOLLOW US AT @SWLLSD



SWL APP: COMING SOON!



BOARD MEETINGS: 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM



COFFEE TALKS: DATES ON WEBSITE



OPEN OFFICE HOURS: DATES ON WEBSITE

**VISIT OUR
STREET FAIR
BOOTH**