

# SWLCONNECT

S E M E S T E R 1  
2 0 2 2



*Taiko Honors Ensemble, Ohio School Boards Association Conference*



# DR. KASEY PERKINS

## KIRKERSVILLE MOVE

As we continue to navigate through our many building projects and renovations, our Kirkersville students and staff will be moving into the old middle school over the holiday break. Kirkersville students will have an extended break similar to when Etna moved in their renovated building last year. All Kirk students will return to school on January 6th and will report to the old middle school. This building will house our Kirk students and staff until the renovated building is complete. Current completion date will be summer of 2024. Plans are currently underway for playground equipment at the middle school for our students to enjoy during their time at the building. We are excited for this transition in January.

## WINTER ACTIVITIES

Over the last few weeks, our students were busy spreading holiday cheer throughout the school community. Students in our high school choir program caroled throughout the district and participated in the Pataskala Cookie Walk. Our entire music program in grades K-12 had many wonderful holiday performances including choirs, band, and orchestra concerts. Students collected various items to donate to families and organizations in need. It was truly wonderful to see our students not only perform, but give back to the community.



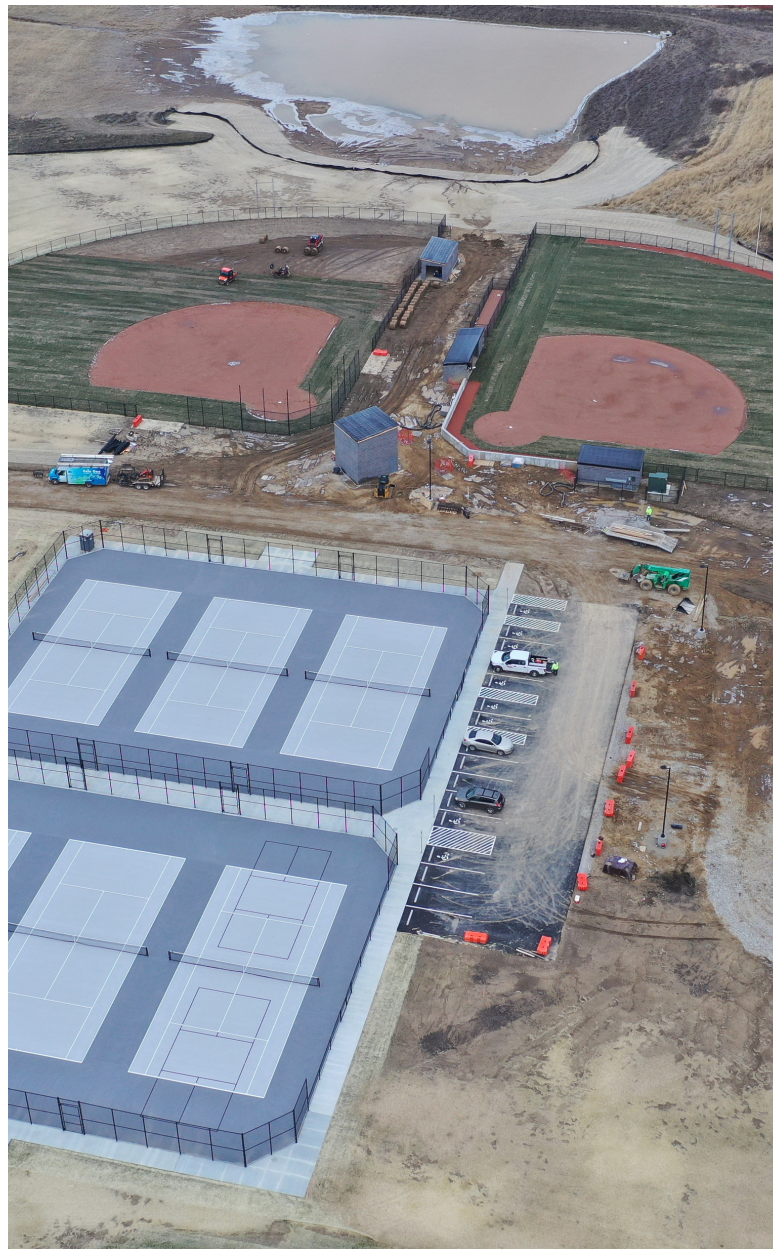
## AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMING

Many of you may remember our community helping the District to win a State Farm Grant for \$25,000 to purchase a new green house for our renovated middle school. Our Agriculture Program in grades 6-12 have been working hard on plans for the green house. It is currently in our courtyard at the middle school and we are finalizing plumbing and electric. The Agriculture Program is currently growing and harvesting crops. Plans are underway for a food forest adjacent to the old baseball field, and an additional growing area will be located at the high school. Students will have a variety of hands-on opportunities as this program continues to grow. We thank everyone again for your help in winning the State Farm Grant.



# BUILDING UPDATES

As you drive by the new high school on route 40, you may have noticed the new athletic facilities under construction. This site will hold new tennis courts, two softball diamonds and one baseball diamond. Our previous tennis courts were unplayable and the need for new courts was imperative. Watkins Road Elementary will break ground this spring and a portion of the building will be located where current softball fields are on Watkins Rd. This created the need for new fields on the high school campus. As our district grows and we continue to have more students, we have outgrown the use of one baseball field. With almost 4800 students, we have a need for two baseball diamonds to support our high school and junior high athletic teams. The entire project will be complete by the fall with portions completed this current year.





# CALAMITY DAYS

The time has come where your children are going to be anxiously awaiting their first snow day. Information on delays or closings are posted on the district website, Facebook, our App, local news stations and a robo call will go out to all families. Decisions to delay or close school are made using the temperature, ice, snow, and the conditions of side roads throughout the district. Our district covers 62 square miles so roads may be clear where one family lives but plows may not have made it to another side of the district. The safety of our students, both drivers and walkers, as well as our busses, will be the top priority when a decision to close or delay is made.

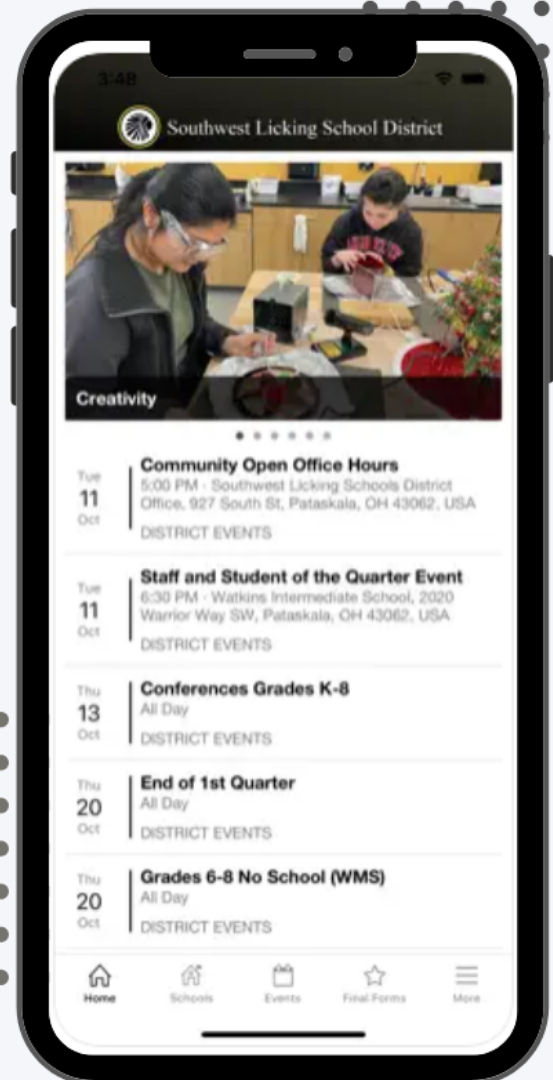


**Southwest  
Licking Schools**

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information, links to  
athletic schedules, forms  
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# *Our* DISTRICT

## ADMINISTRATION



**Dr. Perkins**  
Superintendent



**Mr. Jones**  
Treasurer



**Mr. Tanchevski**  
Assistant  
Superintendent



**Dr. Moore**  
Director of  
Curriculum



**Mr. Davis**  
Director of Pupil  
Services



## VETERANS DAY

*Etna Elementary  
lined their halls  
with pictures  
and stories of  
Veterans in  
honor of  
Veterans Day*



# department

U P D A T E S



# *Our* DEPARTMENT

## LEADERS



**Mrs. Adelman**  
Coordinator  
Student Services



**Mrs. Carter**  
504  
Coordinator



**Mrs. Lejeune**  
Gifted  
Coordinator



**Mrs. Balawajder**  
EMIS  
Coordinator



**Mrs. Sturm**  
Assistant  
Treasurer



**Mr. Brown**  
Logistics



**Mr. Perkins**  
Athletic Director



**Mr. Jennell**  
Project Manager



**Mr. Cameron**  
Technology



**Mrs. Pickering**  
Food Service



**Mr. Paskins**  
Maintenance



# ATHLETICS

## LCL CHAMPIONS

- GIRLS SOCCER ('BACK2BACK')
- VOLLEYBALL (5 STRAIGHT!)
- FOOTBALL (FIRST LEAGUE TITLE SINCE 2006!)
- GRACIE JAMES – GIRLS GOLF INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION



## OTHER NOTATIONS

- GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY 'BACK2BACK' REGIONAL TEAM QUALIFIERS
- VOLLEYBALL: 'BACK2BACK' D1 DISTRICT RUNNERS-UP (3RD TIME IN LAST 4 YEARS)
- FOOTBALL: REGIONAL QUARTERFINALIST FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2014



#WARRIORPROUD







# SCHOOL PSYCH SPOTLIGHT



**Chad Timmons**  
Grades Pre K - 2  
5th Year at SWL



**Brittany Fleming**  
Grades Pre K, 3-5  
7th Year at SWL



**Danielle Simpson**  
Grades 9-12  
8th Year at SWL



**Jessica Goodrich**  
Grades 6-8  
5th Year at SWL

The first step in the special education process is determining if a student has a disability. At SWL we are fortunate to have a team of School Psychologists who are highly trained, professional, and kid-focused to oversee this process. These individuals assess students, support staff with interventions, and counsel students. They are invaluable in ensuring students with disabilities are identified and supported appropriately.

OUR K-5 CONNECTION CLUBS HAD PLENTY OF FUN THIS FALL! BELOW ARE A FEW EVENTS STUDENTS HAD A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN.

## Lynd's Corn Maze Field Trip



**Friday  
Night  
Tailgate**



## Deputy Brill

# DARE PROGRAM

### Mission & Vision

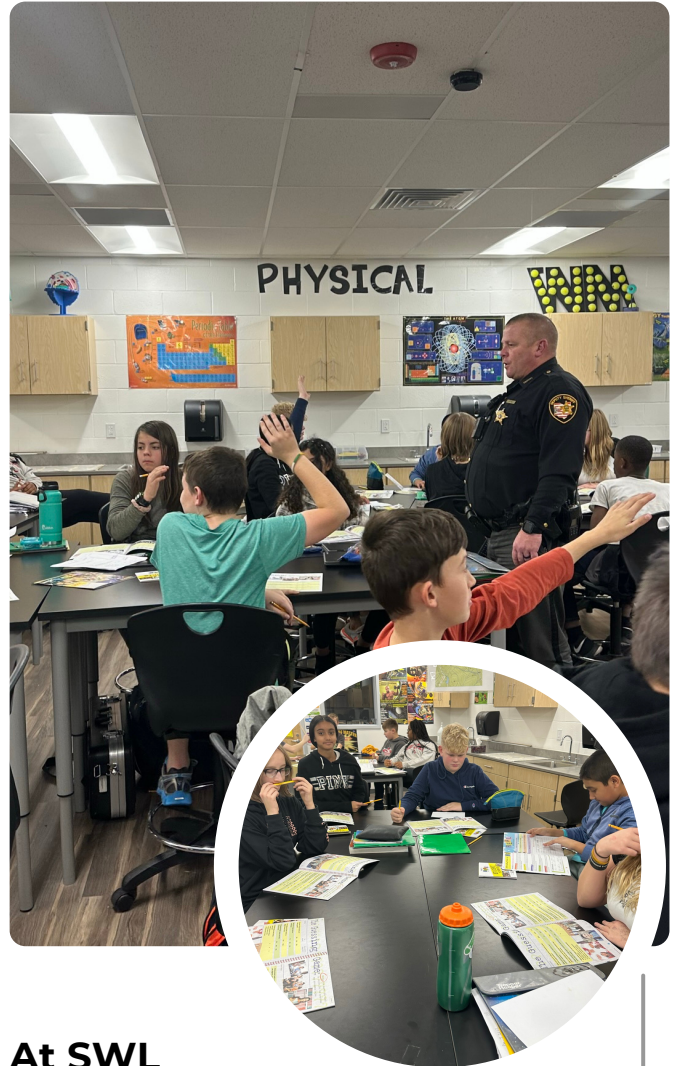
*A Vital Mission... to Fulfill a Vision*

#### The D.A.R.E. Mission

"Teaching students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives"

#### The D.A.R.E. Vision

"A world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance use, and other dangerous behaviors."



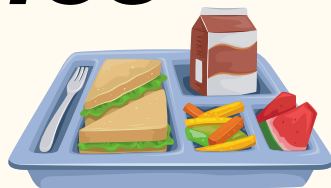
### At SWL

Southwest Licking School is excited for the start of the DARE Program for all 6th graders.

D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.



# Food Service Update



About 2,800 students and staff participated in our annual Thanksgiving meal. The food service team, along with volunteers from our admin staff, served a full festive meal complete with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, fruit, and an iced cookie.

Menus for January 2023 – May 2023 will soon be placed on the Southwest Licking website. Students are offered anywhere from 3-7 entrée choices daily depending on their school. Some of the favorites are chicken sandwiches, delivery pizza, yogurt parfaits, and macaroni and cheese. Let us lighten your load by serving your student breakfast and lunch at school.



## Reminders:

If you would like to apply for free/reduced meals please visit [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com).

To apply money to a student's lunch account you may either pay online by credit/debit card at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) or with cash/check by sending it in an envelope with your student's name on it and marked "lunch \$".

Meal prices: \$1.25 breakfast (all), \$2.75 lunch (K-5), \$3.00 lunch (middle school), and \$3.25 lunch (high school)





The transportation department has had a successful first semester. We continue to appreciate everyone's patience as we deal with occasional bus driver and bus monitor shortages. We are currently transporting 2,719 students daily and travel approximately 3,693 miles each day. In addition to transporting students safely to and from school each day, we have also completed 301 additional trips such as field trips or extracurricular trips.

With the weather changing, please make sure students are dressed appropriately preferably with colors that can be seen easily during the dark mornings. Also, monitor the local news and our school's website for school announcements such as school closings and delays.

## Transportation DEPARTMENT



Kirkersville Elementary will be moving to the old middle school location in January. Those students that walked to the elementary school will now be picked up and dropped off at the corner of Hamilton Street and N 4th Street in Kirkersville. Route times for all students that leave from Kirkersville might fluctuate a little the first week, but they should be very similar to the original times.



Triple P Parenting  
Discussion Group

# DEALING WITH DISOBEDIENCE



This discussion topic provides examples of common forms of disobedience and some reasons why children have difficulty learning to follow instructions. A number of positive parenting strategies are then introduced to help parents develop a personal plan to prevent disobedience, teach their child limits, and also to manage disobedience when necessary.

**JANUARY 17, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**  
**WATKINS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Register on our website!**

**FREE**

**RAFFLES  
CHILDCARE  
PIZZA**



# Mark YOUR CALENDAR



## YOU'RE INVITED!

**Come talk  
to us!**

**January 10  
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
SWL District Office**



**Southwest  
Licking  
Schools**



Southwest Licking Schools

# **KIRKERSVILLE IS MOVING**



**Kirkersville Elementary  
Students ONLY!!!**

**STUDENTS WILL COME BACK ON JANUARY 6  
TO THE OLD MIDDLE SCHOOL**



## MAKING A SALAD

*Students at the middle school are eating salad made from the lettuce that they have been growing.*



# building

U P D A T E S



# Our BUILDING

## ADMINISTRATORS

Follow each  
building on  
Facebook!



Mrs. Adelman  
Early Learning  
Center



Ms. Caudill  
Principal  
Etna



Mr. Hammond  
Asst. Principal  
Etna



Mrs. Piacquadio  
Principal  
Pataskala



Mrs. Poe  
Asst. Principal  
Pataskala



Mr. Wehrman  
Principal  
Kirkersville



Mrs. Cahill  
Asst. Principal  
Kirkersville



Mr. Pratt  
Principal  
W.I.S.



Mrs. Patridge  
Asst. Principal  
W.I.S.



Mr. Brown  
Digital Academy



Mr. Ball  
Principal  
WMS



Mrs. Keene  
Asst. Principal  
WMS



Mr. Hare  
Admin Intern  
WMS



Mrs. Ladowitz  
Principal  
WMHS



Mr. Smith  
Asst. Principal  
WMHS



Mr. Kurth  
Admin Intern  
WMHS





# EARLY LEARNING CENTER



The ELC participated in the Giving Program sponsored through LEADS of Pataskala. Each day our students participated in a themed dress up day and graciously donated supplies.



West Licking County Family YMCA and Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities invited the Southwest Licking Early Learning Center to participate in the Inclusive Fall Family Night.



The ELC is partnering with CTEC's Individualized Transition Education to Careers (ITEC) program as an eight week job placement location. This placement is a first of its kind for ITEC. The high school students participating are acquiring knowledge and skills in the early childhood field.

Ohio State University has student teachers placed at the ELC learning valuable tools of the trade at special needs preschool.

Check out our school spirit!





# Preschool Skills

Preschool age students acquire independence quite quickly. Fostering that development is really important for growth in the area of self help. Self help skills are behaviors or activities performed by your child which lead to them developing more independence and autonomy. Such skills include personal hygiene, dressing, cleaning up, and helping with chores.

Personal hygiene:

- Wash and dry hands
- Blowing their nose
- Sneezing with proper technique (with a tissue or in their elbow)
- Wiping face

Dressing:

- Picking out clothes
- Independent Dressing
- Putting clothes away

Chores:

- Problem solving
- Road safety
- Cleaning up their dishes
- Sorting laundry
- Setting the table

A child's ability to complete tasks such as those listed above depends on their own individual age and development. All children develop differently so it's important to not judge one against the other.

Daily students at the ELC are given many opportunities to practice self-help skills. They unpack and pack their own book bags. Manage their snack bag, opening containers, and cleaning up after oneself. Students wash and dry their hands multiple times a day as well as assist with nose blowing followed by proper disposal of a tissue and hand washing. Students assist in cleaning up the classroom and the gymnasium. The students also participate in facilitated problem solving based on their developmental level.



## CONFLICT RESOLUTION

**Conflict resolution is a big part of the preschool day. Preschoolers at times have big emotions that are tough to navigate outside of the home and with others not their parents or siblings. That is what preschool is for, learning how to be part of a group. Our curriculum includes a six step process to conflict resolution for parents and caregivers.**

**1. Approach calmly, stopping any hurtful actions**  
**Place yourself between the children, on their level, use a calm voice and gentle touch, remain neutral rather than take sides**

**2. Acknowledge children's feelings**  
**Say something simple such as "you look really upset" (if there is a dispute over an object, let children know you need to hold the object)**

**3. Gather information**  
**Ask "what's the problem?" Do not ask "why" questions**

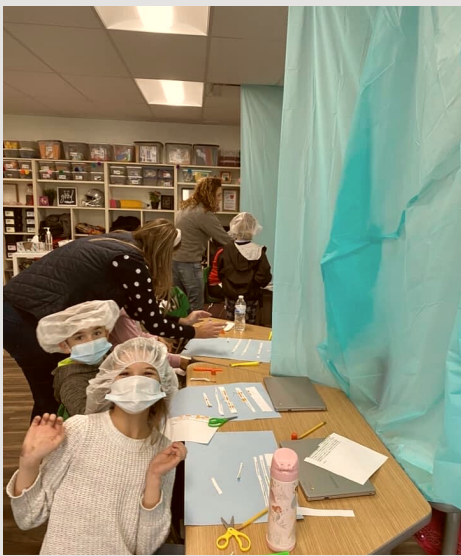
**4. Restate the problem**  
**So the problem is... use and extend the children's vocabulary, substituting neutral words for hurtful or judgemental ones (such as "stupid") if needed**

**5. Ask for ideas for solutions and choose one together**  
**Encourage children to think of a solution, but offer options if children are unable to at first**

**6. Be prepared to give follow up support**  
**Acknowledge children's accomplishments, e.g., "you solved the problem!" Stay nearby in case anyone is not happy with the solution and the process needs repeating**



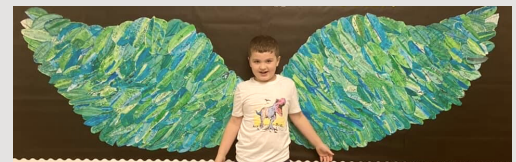




I am sure I share the same sentiments as everyone else when I say how shocked I am that we are already halfway through the 2022-2023 school year. We are incredibly proud of how hard everyone has been working and all that has been accomplished. I cannot wait to see what we can achieve next semester as we SOAR into 2023.

Our district participated in Start With Hello Week, a social and emotional learning program that focuses on the power of connecting and uniting through simple acts of kindness. Mrs. Truman, our school counselor, has continued working with students on anti-bullying lessons that support our commitment to the social and emotional wellbeing of our students.

Students and staff participated in the 12 Days of Giving in December, which donated items collected to LEADS to support Licking County residents in need. This fantastic project allowed our students an opportunity to learn about generosity and helping others.



Our kindergarten and first-grade students had the opportunity to attend a PBIS performance in the high school auditorium again this year. The show was performed and written by Mrs. Hayes' middle school theater class. They delivered an excellent PBIS message that was enjoyed by all that attended. We want to thank Mrs. Ladowitz for allowing us to use the auditorium and Mrs. Hayes' class for their hard work. The students had a wonderful experience.

There have been great things in all the classrooms. Most recently we have had students traveling back in time to learn about Thanksgiving, our version of the Macy's Day Parade, gingerbread houses being decorated, and third-grade reading to our kindergarteners, to highlight a few.

This is just a reminder that we have an Etna Facebook page and post throughout the week about classroom activities. You can search Etna Elementary Eagles or use the link located on our school website.





# KIRKERSVILLE

## ELEMENTARY



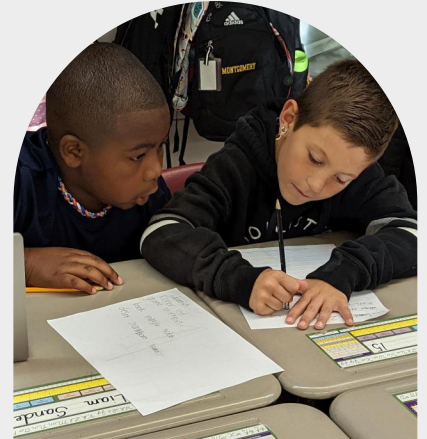
### Cool Cat Character Trait Assemblies

Each month we recognize two students from each classroom that exemplify the character trait for that month. So far we have recognized students for Respect, Responsibility, and Gratitude. December we are focusing on Empathy.



### Q / U Wedding

The kindergarten students attended the Q and U wedding in the Kirkersville gym. The wedding was followed by a dance party!!



### Newspaper

Students from Mrs. Betts' class have started a newspaper. They interview staff and write their own stories under the guidance of Mrs. Betts. Great job third graders!





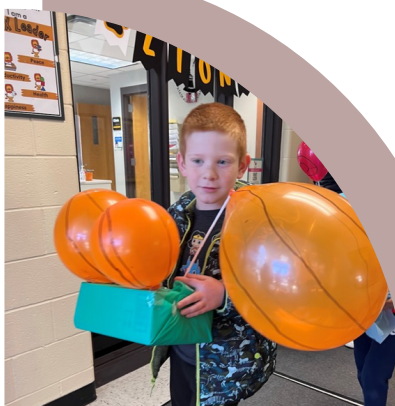
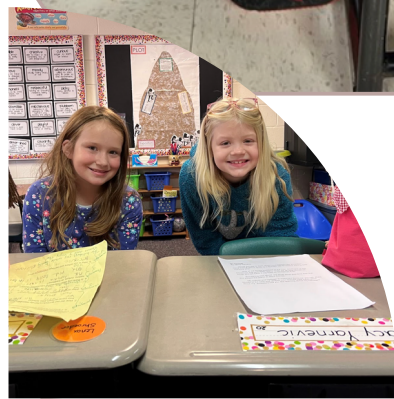
# Pataskala Elementary

Wow! Here we are at winter break. Time flies when you're having fun! The first semester has been jam packed with events, activities, trips, student recognition, fun, and some (a lot of) learning along the way. Some things we'd like to highlight are:

-Start With Hello week and monthly SEL lessons: Students learned the importance of including others and have dug into the values of respect, responsibility, gratitude and empathy.

-Voting: students learned that their vote matters! Students were able to cast their vote in their designated voting precinct (monitored by student election officials!) for which staff member they wanted to see take a pie in the face! Mr. Jerry was the lucky winner!

-Class projects and trips: 3rd grade students created Pilgrim dolls that represent their heritage; 2nd grade students created their own floats and paraded them throughout the building; 1st grade took a trip to the Ohio History Center to make connections with their social studies unit; kindergarten students explored parts of apples and pumpkins and got to do some taste testing along the way;



-Warrior Mentors: three high school students have been helping us all year. Thank you to Miss Murphy, Miss Olivia, and Mr. Ethan for all they do each day for our students.

-Watch Dogs: we had over 900 attendees at our annual Watch DOGs kickoff event! Thank you to the father figures who have volunteered their time to spend a day with us.

-Community support: West Licking Fire presented about fire safety, Deputy Brill taught about safe adults, how to call 911, Pataskala Rotary Club provided dictionaries to all of our 3rd grade students; donations made toward Honor Flight for Veterans, holiday meals, and 12 Days of Giving donations to LEADS.

-Student recognition: congratulations to our students who earned: Paw of Pride certificates, monthly PAX awards, quarterly math, reading, and citizenship awards, and our Students of the Quarter.

We look forward to what the second half of the school year will bring! Some things to come include Battle of the Books, Right to Read Week, spring book fair, and walking field trips around Pataskala, to name a few. If you have any feedback for the first semester we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to [kpiacquadio@laca.org](mailto:kpiacquadio@laca.org). We are happy to serve fantastic students with an outstanding staff supported by a wonderful community. It's a great day to be a Lion!





# Watkins

## I N T E R M E D I A T E



It has been a team effort from all of our staff to get off to such a great start this first half of the year. As teachers tweaked our Humanities curriculum, students have been creating projects and digging into rich literature in the classrooms. Our Bridges math program has students actively engaged through continual collaboration and inquiry to create new strategies for solving problems. Our 5th graders were able to take their Science curriculum outdoors as they had 3 fun filled days of learning at camp. Students also created their own products and sold them in December at our Winter Bazaar to raise money for charity.

Some of our students, led by Mrs. Zordan, brought a powerful Taiko performance to the national OSBA Conference. We have a new Quiz Bowl team, a Lego Robotics team, and ROX girls empowerment club. We did not want to exclude any students from club opportunities this year, so we have staff led WIS Clubs once a month that allow students to explore learning outside of the curriculum. Our amazing staff has created a learning environment for all of our students to grow. We have been fortunate to have high school mentors, Watch Dogs and other guest speaker volunteers in the building to support this learning. We are looking forward to an exciting second half of the year!





*Semester 1*

# HIGHLIGHTS

German Spark Club started it's second year. This after school club includes over 40 students.

The WMS Ag program has won two separate Ohio Stem Learning Grants via Mrs. Karpuz and Mrs. Rahm. Both contributed several thousand dollars to the program and led to the receipt of the "Green Machine".

This year, teachers have been partnering with the PAST Foundation to enhance their project-based learning strategies.

WMS opened its very first Food Forest behind the middle school as a part of Environmental Sustainability courses.

We also implemented our F.O.C.U.S. block this school year to help implement targeted interventions building wide.

Student interest clubs were also started this school year and are going great.

Our 8th grade students visited C-Tec.

During the first semester, we had two dances and two music concerts. They were all great experiences.

Finally, the biggest excitement from the first semester came from moving into our newly renovated building!



*What's coming*

# IN SEMESTER 2

We are looking forward to an awesome second semester. We have many upcoming events to be on the watch for: Math Night, Science Fair, and the Craft Bazaar. We will also have another 6th/7th grade dance and an 8th Grade Farewell Dance. The 8th grade DC Trip, Art Show and Field Day will also be something to look forward to.

# WATKINS MIDDLE

SCHOOL



**WATKINS MEMORIAL  
HIGH SCHOOL**

It has been a fantastic first semester at WMHS. We've fostered school spirit through multiple spirit weeks; cheer training; Alma Mater caroling; a pep rally; rooting for our sports teams, band, and fall play; and fun activities like Anything But a Backpack Day (photo below). Community service has been a focus of many student groups, and we're so proud of how kids are serving others. (photos below)

- Student Council is partnering with E & I classes to hold a HUGE holiday toy and food drive. All donated items, in addition to proceeds from the Powderpuff Football Game, will go to individuals in need in our community.
- The girls soccer team volunteered with Homeless Outreach in downtown Columbus. In addition to donating various hygiene items, team members helped serve food, filled bags of hygiene products, and helped people select from clothing items, bedding, and other donated items. Several dozen people were able to benefit from the event, and the organizers were very appreciative of our girls' help.
- Chorale performed around the town as part of the Pataskala Cookie Walk.
- Future Warrior Mentors and Peer Collaborators go to other schools daily to work with our younger friends. Mentors worked with individuals and small groups on academics, hung out on the playground and in the lunch room, and served as buddies.
- Students in Advanced Graphics work with real clients in our community. They've been working on a t-shirt design for Elite Pest and Termite Control. The students came up with a variety of different design solutions to present to the clients.

Students in Life Skills class have been working all semester to prepare for a cookie and cinnamon roll sale. Students have tested recipes; planned, budgeted, and shopped for necessary supplies; taken orders and prepared invoices; and baked, decorated, and packaged a gazillion treats (photos below).

We've also spent time in classes and during E & I thinking about life after high school. Students have worked on life skills such as organizing their email and Google Drives, set goals and identified action steps, and had great conversations about the impact of phones and social media on their connections with friends, family, and the community. In World Studies class, students had the opportunity to experience a court case in front of a Licking County magistrate as they faced off versus their teacher to decide once and for all the issue of gum in the classroom (photo below).

During second semester, we'll be ramping up for the annual SWL Arts Show in the spring. Student-created pieces are on display throughout the building already, and it's amazing to see what kids can do! We're also looking forward to students in Honors World Studies competing in History Day, after working with staff from the Ohio History Connection to hone their research and critical thinking skills. Another highlight of second semester is sure to be the production of Oliver!

# anything but a backpack day







# SWL DIGITAL ACADEMY

It has been an exciting first semester for our SWL Digital Academy. Currently, our Digital Academy has 80 students. The digital academy has provided an opportunity for all of these students to learn state-aligned curriculum at their pace. Students have had to increase the amount of time they are spending online as they strive to meet the state's mandate of 455 hours per semester. To help with this, students log time in Edmentum for their core and elective courses and complete and submit guided notes. They also spend time reviewing core material on IXL, an online personalized learning platform.

Enrollment for the second semester has begun, and the application can be found on the SWL Digital Academy's website by clicking the "Apply" button. If your child desires to learn at their own pace and they are a self-motivated learner, we would encourage them to consider applying to the SWL Digital Academy.



# NEW SCHOOL!

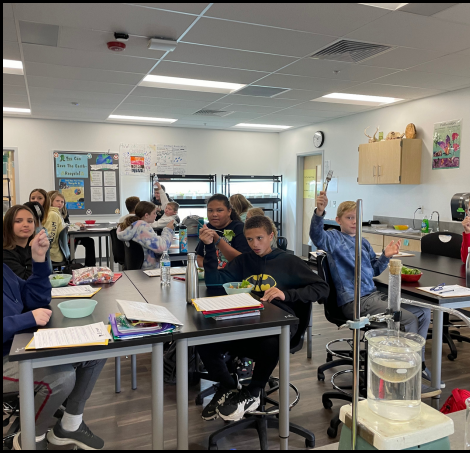
*Watkins Middle School  
students show their  
excitement as they  
explore their new school  
building.*



# photo

## HIGHLIGHTS







CONTACT US

swldistrictoffice@swl.k12.oh.us

927-A South Street  
Pataskala OH 43062

740-927-3941



# Questions?

<https://www.swl.k12.oh.us/about-us/contact-us>

## District Administration

Dr. Kasey Perkins, Superintendent

Mr. Mike Tanchevski, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Tanya Moore, Director of Curriculum

Mr. Dan Davis, Director of Pupil Services