



WINTER 2023 ISSUE

Buckeye Brief

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER OF THE
BUCKEYE CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Update



Mark Robinson, Superintendent

Welcome to the winter edition of the Buckeye Brief! This year is already shaping up to be a great one thanks to the hard work of our staff and students, and the commitment of our families and community to helping our students succeed.

Speaking of helping our students succeed, we kicked off the new year by celebrating our Board of Education. January marked School Board Recognition

Month here in Ohio. This year's theme was "Supporting Success for All Students." Our board, which is responsible for setting the policies and educational framework for the district, exemplifies the idea of success for all students.

School board members are elected by you, our community, for their keen understanding of the values of our residents and the needs of our students. We are fortunate to have a collaborative board made up of men and women who give

of their time freely through conversations with community members and partners, planning for and attending meetings, and furthering their knowledge of current trends in public education through continuing education.

The Buckeye Central Board of Education is comprised of the following, and while January has already come and gone, I hope you'll take the time to say thank you this year:

- Lisa Aichholz, President (6 years of service)
- Jerome Heydinger, Vice President (6 years of service)
- Chris Martin (10 years of service)
- Mike Kalb (6 years of service)
- Adam Dallas (1 year of service)

As always, there are plenty of hands-on learning opportunities and other exciting things happening across our district. Namely, our long-awaited Learning & Resource Center is open at last! Buckeye Central has also hired its first School Resource Officer. Read about these activities and more throughout this newsletter, and thank you for your continued support of our schools and students.

Mark Robinson
Superintendent

FFA Students Launch Podcast

As part of the senior agriculture capstone class, seniors Logan Hanes, Kennedy Deppen, Sydney Beamer and Kenny Utz have launched a podcast!

The podcast, titled "The Loft" based on its recording location in the storage area above the agriculture classroom, is recorded monthly. Topics center around the Agriculture Education Program's three-circle model of FFA, classroom and laboratory experiences, and supervised agricultural experiences. In December, they even talked with guest speaker Mr. Jensen, an English Language Arts teacher at the high school.

Thank you to our students for keeping our community apprised of agricultural information in such a fun and innovative way!



Spanish Club Takes a Field Trip, Celebrates the Holidays

On Nov. 18, 2022, Spanish Club students learned more about Spanish music when they attended a concert in Wapakoneta by the Puerto Rican singer/songwriter Edgar Rene. Students had a great time and it was a valuable learning experience!

Additionally, they made Christmas cards that were delivered to more than 100 residents at the Kiwanis Manor in Tiffin and spread holiday cheer around the district as they sang Christmas carols in Spanish at elementary, middle school, high school and staff lunches!



PreCalc Students Build Roller Coasters

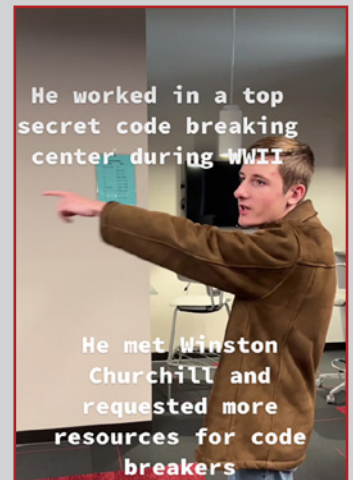
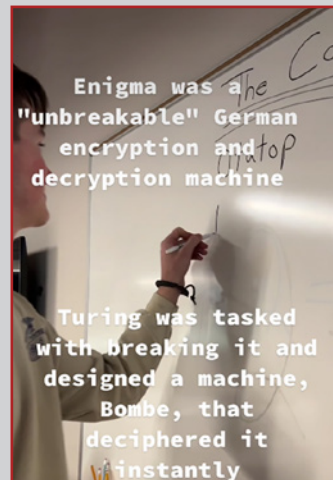
Using the polynomial function, precalculus students recently developed roller coasters! First, they had to create a function and then build their roller coaster using a graph. This project required students to use their critical thinking skills, along with a heap of patience and persistence to make sure the measurements of their roller coaster matched the function they had graphed. They also gave their roller coasters names. What a great way for students to show their creativity while applying the skills they've learned!



Algebra 2 Students Study Math Great

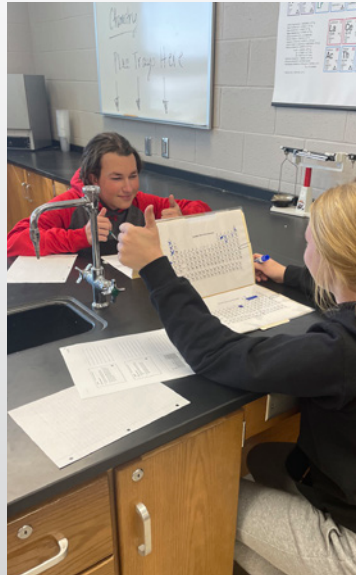
Mrs. Martin's Algebra 2 classes recently studied world-renowned mathematician Alan Turing. He was an English mathematician who developed the Turing Machine, one of the first computers, during World War II. His machine helped break Nazi codes.

Students researched his life and displayed what they had learned through a video, podcast or newsletter article.



Fun and Games with Chemistry

Our teachers are all about making lessons enjoyable and providing hands-on learning experiences for students! For example, students recently reviewed electron configuration by playing periodic table Battleship.



Student Resource Officer Joins Buckeye Central Team

Welcome, Officer Molly Coleman to the Buckeye Central team! Officer Coleman is serving as the district's School Resource Officer (SRO). Her role is to promote a safe and secure learning environment for students, faculty, staff, and the school community by serving as a role model and building positive relationships while remaining focused on preventing and reducing harm related to school violence.

This new position is made possible thanks to a partnership with the Village of New Washington and the N.W. Police Department. Officer Coleman will serve as the SRO during the nine months school is in session and as a member of the N.W. Police Department the remaining months of the year.

Officer Coleman comes to us from the Tiffin City Police Department where she served as a full-time officer for the past 12 years. She worked as a field training officer and was a member of the crisis negotiation team. She is originally from Shelby, Ohio, and graduated from North Central State College where she attended the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and received a degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Coleman is excited about her new role and the chance to work with students.



Worldwide Monster Project Comes to Buckeye Central

There is no better time to create a monster than at Halloween! That's just what our second and sixth grade classrooms did this past fall as part of The Global Monster Project.

The project, sponsored by the National Geographic Education Global Collaborative Projects, involves classrooms of students from as far away as Nigeria describing a monster. The descriptions are sent to another school, where the students are challenged to build the monster their peers described.

Buckeye Central students used their STEAM time with Mrs. Caudill to build the monsters to the specifications of other participating schools. The project required converting measurements and paying close attention to the punctuation used in the monster's description to ensure they got it just right.

Once complete, the monsters, with names like Creepy McCreeper and Slimey Von Beast, were on display for the Trick or Treat in the Hallways event before pictures were sent to the monster project website for judging.





Class of 2023 D.A.R.E. Graduates

Fourth graders kicked off 2023 celebrating what they've learned through the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program at a graduation ceremony on Jan. 3. Each student received a gift and certificate.

Congratulations to this year's essay winners, who described what D.A.R.E. means to them: Shianne Niedermier, Jordyn Rhodes, Vanessa Perry, Maci Cleland, Annaliese Stacklin and Maris Mergenthaler. Thank you to Deputy Martin for sharing these important lessons with our students!

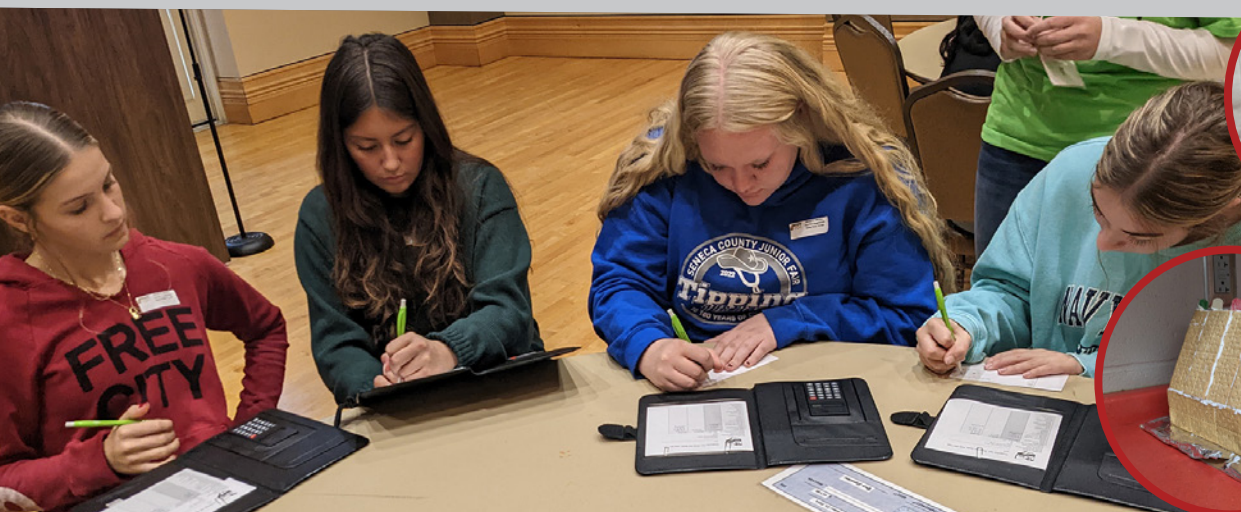


Family & Consumer Science Happenings

Seniors in Family and Consumer Science recently got to see how far they've come by compiling a portfolio documenting their college and career readiness that they presented to a panel of judges.

In recent months, students in the Foods class earned their ServSafe Food Handler certificates. They prepared many dishes throughout the first semester, studying kitchen equipment, food preparation methods, and more along the way.

Similarly, those studying interior design learned more about the potential career paths of an interior designer. They studied the elements and principles of design, then applied what they learned to various projects. They also designed chairs and printed them using the 3D printer. Last, they were tasked with constructing an assigned home style out of graham crackers, and since the project aligned with the holidays, they dressed them up as gingerbread houses!



Project-Based Learning Helps Students Improve Outdoor Learning Lab

One component of Buckeye Central Middle School's Life Science curriculum involves eighth grade students participating in a maintenance day for the Outdoor Learning Lab. As part of the project-based learning opportunity, students investigated the current uses of the facility, hosted an engagement event, and

conducted in-person interviews to brainstorm ways to encourage more use by residents.

Alexis Pope served as the class representative, recently making a presentation to the Board of Education on their ideas.

Bitty Bucks

Enjoy Holiday-Inspired Activities

Preschoolers visited Kleerview Farm in Bellville in December. For many, it was their first field trip and first time riding a bus! Students, teachers and parent chaperones enjoyed a hayride around the tree farm, meeting reindeer and watching the process of "shaking down" a tree. There was also a surprise visit from Santa Claus!

Then, on Dec. 20, our Bitty Bucks dressed to impress and entertain a crowd of parents, grandparents and friends with a holiday concert. Songs included "Frosty the Snowman," "Let It Go," and "Do You Want to Build a Snowman," among others. Students' letters to Santa detailing their Christmas lists were on display and each family went home with a special photo and edible snowman treat.



Suggestions include:

- Building restrooms near the lab
- Installing a nature-based playscape beyond the pavilion
- Creating a fenced-in dog park to curb the use of baseball and softball fields for animal play

This is a great example of how BC students are learning practical life skills!





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Learning & Resource Center, Student Center Now Open

It is said that patience is a virtue. Our patience is paying off in spades as we begin using our newly renovated Learning & Resource Center (LRC)/Student Center.

As of this writing, we are making strides to schedule staff, develop procedures and guidelines for the space's use, and launch new activities and initiatives to take advantage of all that the LRC has to offer.

The center will be available for scheduled morning activities, after-school programs, daily study and reading, College Credit Plus (CCP) coursework, student and teacher projects, and more. This will truly be a place for learning and growth at Buckeye Central!

Dates for a community open house are currently being planned. Stay tuned to our newsletter, social media, website and local paper for additional information.

