



FALL 2022 ISSUE

Buckeye Brief

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER OF THE
BUCKEYE CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Update



Mark Robinson, Superintendent

We are a little over a month into the new school year, and what a fantastic start it has been! The students are settling into the classroom routines with growth and learning being evident. Fall sports teams are experiencing success as we quickly approach midseason. We are grateful for the warm welcome you've given our many new team members as they work with our experienced staff in the best interest of every student.

A feature that has brought extra excitement to our buildings is our new and expanded Learning and Resource Center (LRC). We aim to inspire students to be passionate learners and thinkers, and this space will provide more opportunities for this vision to be realized. We hope to have the student center opened by the end of October.

As part of our on-going commitment to the safety and well-being of all staff and students, we are proud to introduce the Stay Safe. Speak Up! app and reporting system. The app and online reporting system allow staff, students, and families to anonymously report significant safety

concerns such as persistent bullying, abuse, suspicious or threatening behavior, alcohol and/or drug issues, and self-harm. Download the app by searching Stay Safe. Speak Up! in your device's app store. You can also call the hotline 24/7 at 1-866-547-8362 or visit buckeye-central.org and click the #StaySafeSpeakUp button. The code for Buckeye Central Local Schools is BCLS.

We also highly encourage you to talk with your child about finding a trusted adult, whether a parent, teacher, coach, or school counselor, social worker that they feel comfortable sharing any safety issues with. Additionally, we continue to work with the Village of New Washington and the police department to implement a Student Resource Officer (SRO) position within our schools. Thank you for your partnership in keeping our school community safe and focused on learning.

Don't forget to download our District app (search Buckeye Central in your device's app store), and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay connected all school year long. I also encourage you to check our website regularly (buckeye-central.org). I trust you will enjoy reading about the learning activities and opportunities our students have experienced so far this school year throughout this newsletter.

Mark Robinson
Superintendent

A Big Year for Fifth Graders

Fifth grade is a year of transition for Buckeye Central students. To help them adjust to their new environment, we hosted a 5th Grade Bootcamp on Aug. 16.

Students learned about their Chromebooks and got a head start on the school year by downloading learning apps. They also learned how to use their lockers, familiarize themselves with their Hummingbird kids for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) work, and learned about the band since it's the first year in which they can participate.

An open house followed, where parents could ask questions and meet their child's teachers. Our class of 2030 had a great start to the year thanks to this Bootcamp!

Summer Programs Provide Year-Round Learning



The start of the 2022-2023 school year was a continuation of summer learning for some Buckeye Central students. This past summer, the district offered 10 enrichment programs for students in grades K-8.

Some of the activities included:

A field trip to the Toledo Museum of Art for elementary and middle school students. The trip was led by K-8 and high school art teachers, Mrs. Niedermeier and Miss Kalb.

Robotics Kids Camp for students entering grades 4-8. The camp was run by Mr. Kaple, the robotics teacher, and his high school helpers. More than 60 students participated and worked on teams throughout the week on various problem-solving and critical thinking activities. They also learned the design process as they built and programmed VEX robots.

LEGO® Enrichment Camp, which allowed students to complete Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEAM) challenges using LEGO® Education BricQ and SPIKE™ kits. Tasks included planning and creating their favorite meal; designing, creating and coding with a sensor and playing marble mazes; and designing, creating, coding and testing a moveable vehicle without using the provided wheels! This challenge ended in a race to see which vehicle made it across the finish line the fastest. The camp was led by Mrs. Caudill and Mrs. Steiger.

Kids Can Cook, where second and third grade students had the opportunity to learn about healthy eating and have fun with food. Participants got hands-on learning experiences by making several food items/snacks and went home with new knowledge and recipes to make with their families.

More than 250 students and 20 staff members participated in the summer program, which was provided to our community free of charge.

We look forward to continuing to find unique and engaging learning opportunities for our students next summer!

"I am so proud to live in a district that works hard to provide the children with learning opportunities year-round." -Parent

"My daughter loved this trip! We love the programming that Buckeye Central provides." -Parent



Bitty Bucks Preschool Gets New Learning Space

Students at the Bitty Bucks Preschool are benefiting from an all-new Atelier space this school year. Atelier is described as a place where children come together and express themselves through a variety of mediums. They use their creativity to connect with others and build their communication skills.

The project has been more than a year in the making and features loose parts and recycled materials like glass jars, paper tubes, lids, leaves, flowers, sticks, marbles and fabrics. These materials promote active learning and deepen critical thinking.

We can't wait to see the visual representation of our young learners' learning this year!



Students Taking Advantage of New Playground Toys

Jenga, hula hoops, ribbons, Velcro ball catch, oh my! Elementary students are enjoying new games at recess as they return to school this fall.



House Rules

Middle school students will be challenged to build a different sort of camaraderie with classmates and teachers this year. Earlier this month, students were randomly assigned to a "house."

Each house will research one of the four towns that make up the Buckeye Central district, including Bloomville, Chatfield, New Washington and Tiro. Students will use what they learn to come up with an original house name, colors, values, a motto, and mascot.

Throughout the year, kids will compete in challenges to earn house points. They can also earn points for positive behavior in the classroom, cafeteria, hallways, restrooms, as well as on the bus. Quarterly challenges will allow students to show off their house pride as well.

Buckeye Central believes every student needs a strong support system, and this house model will provide just that!



Spanish Students Kick Off New School Year with Dancing, Singing

In only eight days of school, our Spanish 1 students have already learned the basic steps of the salsa and the vocabulary to go along with it to learn the Spanish song "Danza Kuduro." Students are having a great time learning interactively and being immersed in Spanish culture.



D.A.R.E. Program Still Going Strong

The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program has been taught at Buckeye Central for more than 30 years. It remains an effective tool for teaching students important lessons about drugs and alcohol, friendship, and more.

Deputy Martin from the Bucyrus Police Department currently leads the program, which starts in kindergarten and goes through sixth grade. He spends varying amounts of time and talks about increasingly complex topics with students based on their age. For example, kindergarteners spend six weeks with Deputy Martin learning about strangers, when to call 911 and school safety. The program's core curriculum is taught in sixth grade and focuses on responsibilities, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, over-the-counter medicines, communicating with confidence, peer pressure, and bullying over 12 weeks.

Buckeye Central is grateful for its partnership with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office in bringing this program to students.

New Position Aims to Help Students Be More Successful

You may have noticed increased talk about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) principles in recent years. STEAM represents the interconnectedness of all subjects by challenging students to stay curious, ask questions and think creatively. These attributes have been shown to lead to higher levels of success, which is why Buckeye Central is working hard to use the STEAM approach more routinely across all grade levels.

As evidence of Buckeye Central's commitment to STEAM, we've hired a STEAM teacher for grades K-5 and built a STEAM lab at both ends of our building. Our latest move to help us bring more STEAM lessons to students is hiring a STEAM Integration Specialist for grades 6-12. Mrs. Betts is in her 22nd year of teaching here at Buckeye Central, having previously taught Physical Science, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry and Maker 7.

She's already been hard at work this year on the following:

Designing and creating a prototype to fill a hole in a desk with Mr. Robinett's sixth grade science students.

Building a card tower as part of a cooperative learning challenge with Mrs. Williamson's eighth grade science students.

Making wire sculptures with Ms. Kalb and Art II students.

Looking ahead, Mrs. Betts will be working with Mr. Oswald and Sports Marketing students to design a T-shirt and 3D bobbleheads for their new sports franchise. She looks forward to modeling the STEAM approach by doing even more creative projects with the teachers and students of Buckeye Central!



Welcome New Staff



Mrs. Heilman

Special Education Supervisor

Mrs. Heilman received her bachelor's from Bluffton University, her master's from Bowling Green State University, and her principal's license from the University of Findlay. She began teaching in 2005 for Marion City Schools, and spent the past three years as assistant principal at Benjamin Harrison Elementary. She said she's enjoying getting to know the staff and students of BC!



Mrs. Long

Food Service

Mrs. Long graduated from Colonel Crawford High School before earning her cosmetology license from Pioneer Career & Technology Center and her pastry art certification from Columbus State Community College. She has been working as a cosmetologist for the past 12 years, but is excited for her new role at Buckeye Central.

She said, "I look forward to seeing all of the kids smiling faces at lunchtime!"



Mrs. Cottrill,

First Grade, Buckeye Central Elementary

Mrs. Cottrill graduated from Ohio State University with a master's in education and from Western Governors University with a master's in leadership.

She has been teaching for 12 years, eight at Marion City Schools and three at the Richland Academy School of Excellence. She is excited to be part of the Buckeye Central family and said the staff has been very welcoming.



Mrs. Kaple

Third Grade, Buckeye Central Elementary

Mrs. Kaple earned her bachelor's in early childhood education from Bowling Green State University and her master's in curriculum and instruction with a focus on reading from the American College of Education. She also has her K-12 reading endorsement from Ashland University.

Before coming to Buckeye Central, she taught at Bucyrus City Schools for eight years. One of her favorite traditions so far is the music that plays over the PA system in the mornings.

"I'm excited to have so many engaging learning opportunities for our students at BC. I can't wait to see what we all achieve this year," said Mrs. Kaple.



Mrs. Wechter

Language Arts, Honors Club Advisor, Buckeye Central Middle School

Mrs. Wechter earned her bachelor's in middle childhood education from Bowling Green State University and her master's in integrated teaching and learning from Ohio State University. This marks her 18th year teaching. She taught in Columbus for 11 years, Willard for four years, and Bucyrus for three years.

"Buckeye Central has been amazing from day one. Everything from the new IGNITE initiative to the staff and students has been so welcoming," she said.



Mrs. Garner

Physical Science, Chemistry, Buckeye Central High School

Mrs. Garner graduated from Holy Family University with a degree in biology and from Ashland University's Bachelors Plus Program where she earned her integrated science licensure for grades 7-12. She taught previously at Fostoria Junior Senior High School.

She said she's impressed with how enthusiastic her students are and in their BC pride.



Miss Kalb

Art and Yearbook, Buckeye Central High School

Miss Kalb recently graduated with her bachelor's in visual arts education from the University of Findlay. She's excited to be back at her alma mater, where she found her passion for teaching art.

"The students have already produced amazing work! I am excited for all that is to come," she said.



Mrs. Martin

Algebra 1 & 2, Precalculus, Buckeye Central High School

Mrs. Martin is a 2014 proud alumni of Buckeye Central and earned a degree in integrated mathematics from Kent State University. She previously taught at Buckeye Central as well as Greenup County High School in Kentucky and Shelby Middle School.

"Buckeye Central is a strong community with helpful staff and hard-working students," she said. "I'm excited to explore and persevere within the world of mathematics with my students."



Mrs. Selvey

Spanish, Buckeye Central High School

Mrs. Selvey hails from Houston, Ohio. She earned her bachelor's in Spanish education from Wittenberg University, where she also played basketball, and her master's and 5-12 principal's license from the University of Dayton.

She started her teaching career 10 years ago at New Bremen High School, then worked at Wapakoneta for nine years. There, she also coached basketball, volleyball and softball. Mrs. Selvey is settling in, saying she loves the small-town feel of Buckeye Central and how everyone is so helpful and supportive.



Buckeye Central Local School District

938 South Kibler St.
New Washington, OH 44854

Phone: 419-492-2864

www.buckeye-central.org



[www.facebook.com/
BuckeyeCentralSchool](https://www.facebook.com/BuckeyeCentralSchool)



[www.instagram.com/
buckeye_central_schools/](https://www.instagram.com/buckeye_central_schools/)



twitter.com/Buckeye_Central

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Mansfield, OH
Permit 540

Postal Customer

New Learning Spaces, Offices Nearing Completion

Providing educational excellence requires learning spaces that inspire and motivate students. That's why Buckeye Central is excited to unveil new, innovative areas this fall!

The media center is currently being renovated. Once complete, it will be ideal for study tables, homework, college credit plus courses, tutoring, and more during and after the school day. Additionally, small group instructional rooms and student support offices are being added to the middle school. Not to be left out, students in grades 1-4 will soon begin using a large group instructional (LGI) space and learning lab.

To better align staff with their responsibilities, we are also relocating the athletic director's office to be closer to the gymnasiums and athletic facilities, and are upgrading the guidance complex to make room for our new School Resource Officer.

We are excited to see how these changes will further our student-centered approach!



Special Fall Sports Events



Senior Night vs. Bucyrus Redmen

Chili Supper & Football, XC, Golf,
Marching Band Senior Night



Free admission for
all BC students

Varsity Events:
\$6 Adult/Visiting Students

JV/9th/JH Events:
\$5 Adult/Visiting Students

All-Sport Season Passes:
\$125 ea.



Military Night vs. Wynford Royals



Volleyball Senior Day vs. Galion Tigers

