



SWLCONNECT

SOUTHWEST LICKING LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUGUST 2023



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kasey Perkins, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Tanchevski, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Daniel Davis, Director of Student Services
Mrs. Melissa Ladowitz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Tonya Sherburne, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Richard Jones, Treasurer



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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



Dr. Kasey Perkins

Superintendent

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope this summer has given everyone a chance to relax and revitalize themselves in preparation for a great school year. As we begin a new academic year, I want to take a moment to express our excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to educate your children once again. To all of our new families joining us this year, I want to extend an extra special welcome. Starting a new school can be exciting and overwhelming, both for students and parents alike. Our dedicated team of educators and staff are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and fostering a welcoming environment for your children.

As the summer is quickly winding down, the District continues to undergo upgrades to our facilities. Final touches are being added to our new athletic facilities across from the high school. The stadium fencing project and concession stand renovations are underway and will be complete prior to our first home football game. Kirkersville Elementary is undergoing renovations, and we recently broke ground on the new Watkins Elementary on our Watkins Road campus. The District will begin the process of redistricting in the coming months in preparation for the opening of our new elementary.

Our facility upgrades, renovations, and new buildings not only help contribute to academic excellence, but also to providing a well-rounded education that nurtures the social, emotional, and physical well-being of our students. Our comprehensive range of extracurricular activities, clubs, and athletic programs are designed to engage students in their areas of interest, foster leadership skills, and promote teamwork.

We understand that the success of our students is closely linked to open communication and collaboration between home and school. To facilitate this, we encourage you to take an active role in your child's education. Attend parent-teacher conferences, participate in school events and committees, and stay connected through our various means of communication. Your feedback and partnership are invaluable, and we look forward to working together to create the best possible educational experience for your children.

On behalf of the entire Southwest Licking Local team, welcome back to school. We are honored to have you as a part of our school community, and we look forward to another successful school year. I am confident that this school year will bring many memorable experiences and achievements.

Wishing you and your family a fantastic school year filled with joy, growth, and endless possibilities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kasey Perkins".

Dr. Kasey Perkins, Superintendent

Mr. Michael Tanchevski

Assistant Superintendent



Once students enter Watkins Intermediate School they are accorded the nickname Warriors and are exposed to the character traits of Warrior Pride. Respect, responsibility, resourcefulness, compassion, and engagement are some of the essential skills modeled and stressed as part of the Warrior Pride mindset. Reinforced through Watkins Middle School and Watkins Memorial High School, these qualities empower students with the capacity to adapt and flourish in any situation.

Warrior Pride characteristics develop from a solid foundation and permeate the community.

Although our three neighborhood schools have their own identities, they all work to establish a basis of positive classroom behaviors by utilizing the PAX Good Behavior Game. Peace, productivity, health, and happiness form the foundation for engaged learners, who actively participate in creating safe and encouraging classrooms. Warrior Pride attitudes are not confined to our students; they are shared by our residents. Residents who are united by the school system and have entrusted school administration the design, construction, and maintenance of some of the premier academic and athletic facilities in the state of Ohio.

Warrior Pride extends community-wide and makes the Southwest Licking Local School District an exceptional place to live and raise a family.





Mrs. Melissa Ladowitz

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Literacy will continue to be an area of focus district-wide in the 2023-2024 school year. We are shifting to the 95% Core Phonics Program in grades K - 3. This phonics instruction will form the backbone of the structured literacy block that will also incorporate vocabulary, fluency, reading comprehension, written response to reading and more. Teachers in grades K - 5 will receive training in the Science of Reading. Teachers in grades 4 - 12 will receive training in disciplinary literacy and writing, with the goal of students reading, writing, and engaging in discussion in every core class every day.



Continually expanding course offerings, combined with clubs and extracurricular activities, including Envirothon, Lego Robotics, visual and performing arts, and a wide range of athletics, challenge students to find their passion while building connections to their school community. Summer experiences such as STEAM Camp, Down on the Farm, Wellness Camp, and Summer Reading ensure that learning continues through the summer and kids are excited and ready to return to school in the fall.

FINAL **FORMS**

Updating your child's information in FinalForms prior to the start of each school year is required in order for your child to receive his/her teacher assignment / class schedule. The contact information you provide will be used for district communication throughout the year. This required annual update ensures that we have the most up to date information for each student.

Questions?

Contact: swldistrictoffice@swl.k12.oh.us

Mr. Daniel Davis

Director of Student Services



As the District continues to grow, it's important to recognize our students' unique needs and consider how we can best support them as a district. In the upcoming school year our number one priority is ensuring students are getting the supports they need in their least restrictive environment. We are blessed to have so many dedicated professionals who prioritize inclusion. Our teachers and support staff ensure that all of our students are defined by their strengths. One way this is accomplished is by ensuring that instruction takes place with peers to the greatest extent possible. This gives all students the ability to contribute to class discussions, develop peer relationships, and reach their greatest academic potential. We believe that all students deserve to be a part of their greater learning community.





TREASURER UPDATE

Richard Jones, Treasurer

In order to attract new business to Ohio, various economic development incentives are required to compete with other States for the new business. One of the economic development incentives is property tax abatements. The majority of the new businesses coming to Ohio are requesting a 100% property tax abatement for 15 years. New businesses also request Tax Increment Financing (TIF), which are payments derived from the increased assessed value of any improvement to real property beyond that amount are directed towards a separate fund to finance the construction of public infrastructure defined within the TIF legislation.

The school district does not initiate property tax incentives. The school district only gets involved if the new business is requesting an incentive above the maximum abatement without school district approval. The school district tries to negotiate the maximum payment in exchange for approving the requested abatement. The payments can be in the form of lump sum cash payments or annual per square foot payments from the new business, income tax sharing agreements, and payments from JEDZs or JEDDs.

Economic development incentives are here to stay, and the school district is an integral part of that process. The district tries to negotiate the best deal possible while not being a roadblock to economic development.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Robert Jennell, Project Manager



The current building master plan is now entering the final stages and we will soon open the renovated Kirkersville Elementary in August of 2024 and a new 800 student Watkins Elementary in 2025. This new elementary will be located just east of the current soccer fields on our eastern campus. At Kirkersville, crews have already installed radon systems in the existing spaces, abated all hazardous materials, removed the four modular buildings, and completely demolished the “old” material inside the building. The 76,000 square foot Watkins Elementary will be a single story brick building equipped with the up-to-date features found in the previously renovated and new buildings.



We are nearing the completion on the new athletic fields and tennis courts located next to the intersection of Warrior Way and SR 40. The six new tennis courts and softball fields were used for the first time this past spring, and the baseball field will be ready this year. In addition to these new fields, a renovated concession building and installed fence will be ready for fall activities at our existing football field/track facility.

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)
- All Students in Grades 6 - 12 Attend

August 16 - 19 - Visit our Street Fair Booth

August 21 - All Students Attend

BUILDING EVENTS

Early Learning Center

- August 17th - Open House (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm)
- August 21st - First Day of Preschool ALL students
- September 20th - Curriculum Night (5:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

K-3 Buildings (Etna, Kirkersville, Pataskala)

- August 15th - Open House / Supply Drop-Off (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm)
- September 13th - Curriculum Night (K/1 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm, 2/3 - 6:00 pm - 6:45 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 Night (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
- September 13th -15th - 5th Grade Camp (in-house)
- September 26th - Watch DOGS Kick-Off (6:00 pm)

Watkins Middle School

- August 7th-8th - Schedule Pick-Up (8:00 am - 2:00 pm)
- August 14th - 6th Grade Orientation & Schedule Pick-Up (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
- August 15th - 7th-8th Grade Orientation & Schedule Pick-Up (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

Watkins Memorial High School

- August 10th - 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 - 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm
- August 10th - Freshmen / New Student Family Meeting (7:00 pm- 8:00 pm)
- August 24th - Meet the Teacher (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm)

2022-2023



HIGHLIGHTS





TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Ryan Brown, Director of Logistics

We are excited 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 3rd for them to be effective for the first day of school. Any changes made after August 3rd will not be**

ready until August 31st. Students' busing information will be emailed on August 10th. Below are some frequently asked questions about transportation. If you have any additional questions, please contact the transportation department.

Q: I live in one elementary school boundary. My child's daycare/babysitter lives within a different elementary school boundary. What should I do?

A: SWL schools will not transport children across school boundaries. You will need to either transport your own child or find a daycare/babysitter within your school boundary.

Q: We are planning on moving to another area within the district, can my child start attending their new school before we move?

A: No. Students will need to attend the building in which you currently reside until proof of a change of address is provided.

Q: What if the address used for transportation changes?

A: Prior to August 4th, you can update Final Forms on our website. After August 4th, you will need to update Final Forms. Please note that any requests made after the beginning of the school year will result in a 2-week processing period.

Q: The bus goes right by my house. Why can't it stop at my driveway?

A: School bus stops are placed in central locations to help shorten route lengths and times. The transportation department makes every effort to see that these stops are safe and have appropriate walking routes to them. The higher frequency of stops made by the bus increases the dangers of accidents due to impatient motorists eager to pass the bus.

Q: Who has the authority to change my bus stop or route?

A: The transportation department is the only authority that can make a change to bus routes or stops. If you believe your bus stop is unsafe and/or does not fit the bus stop criteria set forth by the district, please contact the transportation department.

Q: I cannot see my child's bus stop from the house. Are there state laws about bus stop locations?

A: No law requires a parent to see the bus stop from home. Students in grades K-8 in Ohio may be assigned to a bus stop up to one-half mile from their home. We encourage parents to accompany their child to the bus stop whenever possible. This teaches the child safe habits of walking to and from the bus stop and may give the parent peace of mind.

FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Cindy Pickering, Food Service Supervisor



We are excited to welcome back and serve students for the upcoming school year. A nutritional breakfast and lunch will continue to be available daily. Breakfast consists of fruit, grain, and milk. Lunch offers a fruit, vegetable, grain, meat/meat alternative, and milk. Students may choose from a variety of selections daily. Menus may be found on the Southwest Licking School District website on the Food Service Department page: <https://www.swl.k12.oh.us/departments/food-services>

Important items to remember:

- Meals cost \$1.25 for breakfast, \$2.75 K-5 lunch, \$3.00 middle school lunch, \$3.25 high school lunch.
- Extra healthy snacks/drinks are sold daily for an additional cost between \$.50-\$2.00. Parents may add a restriction on their child's account such as "only 1 snack/day" by emailing Carmen Murphy at carmurphy@laca.org.
- Money should be placed on a student's account prior to meal purchasing. To apply money online via debit/credit card please visit www.myschoolbucks.com. Please note there is a small convenience fee when paying online. This fee may be recuperated when you purchase 20 lunches at one time resulting in your student receiving one additional bonus meal. You may also send in cash/check with your student in an envelope marked with their name and indicate "lunch \$".
- Free/reduced meal applications must be completed every school year. Please visit www.myschoolapps.com before school begins to complete your application for the 2023-24 school year.
- School fees may only be waived or reduced if you qualify for free/reduced meals.

Want a part-time job while the kids are at school? We are hiring substitute food service personnel. Typically subs work 3-5 hours per day as needed between 8:30-1:30. Duties in the kitchen include prepping meals, serving food, and cleaning. To apply please visit: <https://sites.google.com/swl.k12.oh.us/swl-employment/home> and select classified application.



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: SOUTHWEST LICKING SCHOOLS



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**