



FALL 2023 ISSUE

Buckeye Brief

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER OF THE
BUCKEYE CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Update



Mark Robinson, Superintendent

I'm pleased to share that we've had an excellent start to the 2023-2024 school year. Students are fully engaged in their studies, our sports teams are experiencing success, and our co-curricular and extracurricular clubs are in full swing. Thank you to all of our staff and students for working together to make Buckeye Central the special place that it is.

Buckeye Central is your school district. As such, I invite you to stay up-to-date with what's happening across our district. You can do so by visiting our website at buckeye-central.org, liking and following us on social media at Buckeye Central Schools (Facebook, Instagram and X), or attending one of our Board of Education meetings, which are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Board/Administrative Conference Room.

As a reminder, safety and security is our top priority. Our Stay Safe, Speak Up! anonymous reporting system is one piece of our overall safety program. If you or a student hears or experiences an event that creates safety concerns and is unable to contact a teacher, counselor, or administrator, this system is available 24/7 on our website.

Like other school systems across the nation, we continue to have openings for bus drivers. Our bus drivers are the first and last school professionals our students see each day. If you or someone you know would like the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our children, please visit the Employment page of our website at buckeye-central.org/district/employment or call Deb Briggs, Transportation Supervisor, at (419) 492-2864.

We hope to see you soon at an upcoming sporting event or fine arts performance, and as always, thank you for your continued support of our district. WeR_BC!

Mark Robinson
Superintendent

Staff Members Earn Certification

Elementary staff members Jackie Stockmaster and Hanah Wilson have been hard at work over the past few months. They recently completed a rigorous Orton-Gillingham foundation course alongside several other staff members to boost Buckeye Central's approach to phonics with students.

The class consisted of 60 hours of coursework, which included teaching lessons and submitting videos, getting feedback, and passing a test. Both now have their dyslexia certification, which makes them experts in early childhood reading. This also satisfies Ohio's new requirement that districts have a dyslexia specialist.



Financial Update

We are grateful for our community's support in passing the .5 mill maintenance levy in 2007 when we constructed our current building. Some of the funding received as part of this maintenance levy allowed us to complete the following projects this year to keep our buildings safe and an engaging environment for our students and community.

- New scoreboards in the high school gym
- Clean and seal the brick exterior
- Paint the elementary and middle school wings
- Repair and seal blacktop across campus
- Replace high school gym doors
- Upgrade phone system
- Upgrade multipurpose room seating
- Upgrade drinking fountains with touchless water bottle fillers
- Heating/cooling maintenance and upgrades

Nancy Ackerman,
Treasurer

Elementary Playground Receives Upgrades in Time for New School Year

Students at Buckeye Central Elementary returned to a few surprises for the first day of recess. Over the summer, the following was installed:

- Pergola for shade
- New games, including giant checkers, tic-tac-toe, hula hoop circles, and a chalk and bubbles area
- New paint job for four square and Hopscotch games

Additionally, student leaders were named this year. They are responsible for getting the toys in and out of the playground shed each day.

BC Hosts First Quiz Bowl of the Year

Buckeye Central hosted Shelby, Tiffin Columbian and Upper Sandusky on Sept. 12 in the high school's first Quiz Bowl of the year. The Buckeye Central team went 1-2 on the day.



Innovations Course Teaches New Skills

Innovations is a course designed for Buckeye Central juniors and seniors. A self-directed class, students choose a topic they want to research or a new skill they would like to learn. There is a wide variety of projects taking place this semester. Check a couple of them out below!

- Kora Jones is learning how to crochet
- Faye Betts is learning how to make jewelry
- Mia McDougal is making tabletop cornhole games that will be raffled off for a charity
- Keegan Rutledge is building model airplanes with different wing shapes to compare how the air flows through each
- Syrus Wagner is building a computer to be used for gaming or 3D modeling software
- JJ Hiler is learning how to use an Arduino which is a programmable circuit board that will light up LEDs
- Izzy Brennamen is building learning boards for preschoolers



Make.Do! Tools Help Students Build a Pet

First grade students are learning how to engineer a puppy thanks to new tools from Make.Do! They used screwdrivers, screws, saws and perforators. They worked on their fine motor skills, and teamwork, and learned how to critique each other's work with kindness.



New Aptitude and Career Discovery Course Providing Students Additional Pathways

Thanks to a grant from the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, seniors at Buckeye Central are learning about their aptitudes, which are a person's natural ability to learn or perform in a given area.

The course is grounded in decades of research and scientific data from vocational counselors and industrial-organizational psychologists. The core assessment is divided into 11 5-10 minute exercises. Upon completion, students receive a personalized report that summarizes their aptitudes and matching education and career pathways. The program is an alternative to traditional academic measures such as GPA and standardized test scores that help students find the future that's right for them.



Jennifer Kuhn
Director of Curriculum
and Assessment



Becca McConnel
Sixth Grade Middle
School English/Reading
Teacher



Derrick Heydinger
Bus Driver/Custodian



Scott Shoup
Custodian/Substitute
Bus Driver



Eighth Graders Visit the Great Outdoors

Eighth graders kicked off the school year with a field trip to the Upper Sandusky Reservoir. They rotated through six stations where they learned to fish and kayak and built their leadership skills.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources assisted with the field trip by providing equipment and teaching kids how to make knots, take fish off a hook, and sharing fishing license information. Additionally, they taught them how to kayak and be safe on the water.

A big thank you to Officer Molly, our School Resource Officer, for tagging along. She supervised the recreational activities and she and the students got the chance to connect outside of the school setting.



Welcomes New Staff



Susan Auck

Learning Resource Center
(LRC) Paraprofessional
Aide



Payton Miller

Preschool Teacher



Collin Mancuso

Preschool Intervention
Specialist



Emily Burger

Preschool-12th Grade
Speech-Language
Pathologist



LRC Meeting Needs of Students Across All Grade Levels

Our newly designed Learning & Resource Center, which opened last spring, is exceeding district expectations! It has become a space where:

- College Credit Plus students come to study
- Avid readers enjoy exploring the assortment of literature
- High school students enjoy coffee and Boba Tea from the Bucks Cups Cafe
- Elementary students work on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) projects
- Counselors, located in adjoining rooms, can reach students more effectively

Not to mention, we have the best librarian in Mrs. Auck!



Students Coordinate Military Appreciation Event

Buckeye Central held its annual Military and Veteran Appreciation football game on Sept. 1. Students in our high school Government class and Teen Leadership decorated the stadium with the help of our maintenance team. Military banners were placed in the end zone and the 50-yard line was painted red, white and blue.

Government students performed a flag retirement ceremony at the start of the game, after spending the week learning about the U.S. flag and proper folding techniques. The class retired more than 130 flags leading up to the event.

Veterans and active military members received:

- Free admission to the game against Ada High School
- A meal prepared by Government and Teen Leadership students
- A new flag to fly at their home
- A custom wooden coin designed and produced by Government students in our very own STEAM lab

This special night also gave Buckeye Central a chance to shine a spotlight on Buckeye Central High School's designation as a Purple Star School. This award is given to schools that go above and beyond to help military families and support and recognize veterans.

On behalf of Buckeye Central, thank you to all of our veterans and their families!



Robotics Club

Poised for Success This School Year

The start of this school year has proven quite busy for our BC Robotics Club. Many of our teams began their planning and robot design efforts as early as last spring. Throughout the summer, they worked together in our STEAM Lab to construct their robots so they had plenty of time to test their product before the first competition.

This year, the Robotics Club consists of four teams, and we are excited to announce that we are hosting our first competition at Buckeye Central later this year. Mark your calendar for Dec. 16, and we'll see you there! To learn more about this year's game, scan the QR Code.



BC Student, Staff Participate in Special Olympics Softball Game

Students and staff alike represented Buckeye Central well at the Sept. 13 Crawford County Special Olympics softball game. Freshman Kaitlyn Hicks was a key player, and a dozen staff members came out to support the event, including Joe Wiles, who served as the game announcer.

This marked the last game of the season, but basketball season will be here before we know it! Watch for updates on the Crawford County Chargers Facebook page. The program is available to children 8 and up with qualifying intellectual disabilities.





Buckeye Central Local School District

938 South Kibler St.
New Washington, OH 44854
Phone: 419-492-2864
www.buckeye-central.org



BuckeyeCentralSchool



buckeye_central_schools



Buckeye_Central

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

Postal Customer

Opening Convocation Motivates Students for Year Ahead

An opening convocation is traditionally held for school staff to help kickstart their school year and share any new initiatives for the district. This year, the event was also offered to high school students. The message centered around the following quote: "Education is your passport to a better future."

