

**Fall Athletic Highlights (as of 10/11/22)**

**Girls Golf**

- Record 13-1 (8-0)
- WOAC CHAMPIONS
- Best team 9 holes 184 @ Echo Hills
- Best team 18 holes 367 @ Richmond Elks CC
- 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Sectional Tournament at Stillwater Valley
- Brooke Anderson fell just short by 1 stroke to qualify for the District Tournament
- New Girls Golf records set this season: Team 18 Holes; 367; Anderson/Rogers/Harleman/Flatter; September 21, 2023 @ Richmond Elks; Record previously held by 1994 team with a 375
- Post Season Awards: All WOAC—Brooke Anderson, Belle Harleman, Emma Rogers, Kaylee Flatter, Kylie Grieshop; Special Mention—Hannah Kendig; Coach of the Year—Andrew Bryant

**Boys Golf**

- Record 8-5 (8-3)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the WOAC Tournament (333)
- Graham Brubaker WOAC Tournament Champion (72)
- Just missed qualifying for the District Tournament as a team (tiebreaker)
- Graham Brubaker Sectional Champion +1 (72) at Turtle Creek
- Graham finished 5<sup>th</sup> individually in the District Tournament at Heatherwoode with a +5 (76)
- New Boys Golf records set this season: TIED 9 Hole Individual -3 (33) - Graham Brubaker; 9 Hole Season Average 36.52—Graham Brubaker
- Post Season Awards: Player of the Year—Graham Brubaker; All WOAC—Luke Stephens; Special Mention—RJ Brothers; Co-Coach of the Year—Kip Gray

**HS Volleyball**

- Varsity Overall 17-3 (10-1); JV 18-2 (11-0)
- 2023 WOAC Volleyball Co-Champions
- Big rivalry wins over FM and TV
- JV and Varsity Greenville Federal Volleyball Invitational CHAMPIONS
- Lady Trojans receive the #4 seed in the Sectional Tournament

**Varsity Football**

- Overall 2-5; WOAC 1-5

**Cross Country**

- Boy's Highlights: Newton Invitational—Team 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kollin Frazee 10<sup>th</sup>; Blackhawk Invitational—Team 2<sup>nd</sup>; Covington Invitational—Team 6<sup>th</sup>
- Girl's Highlights: Newton Invitational—Arianne Garrison 7<sup>th</sup>; Blackhawk Invitational—Arianne Garrison 3<sup>rd</sup>; Covington Invitational—Arianne Garrison 8<sup>th</sup>

**JH Football**

- Overall Record 3-3-1

**JH Volleyball**

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade overall 15-1; WOAC 11-0
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade overall 7-8; WOAC 7-3
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade earns the #1 seed in the WOAC Tournament
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade earns the #4 seed in the WOAC Tournament

**JH Cross Country**

- Boy's Highlights: Blackhawk Invitational—Evan Rieman 1<sup>st</sup>, Roy Baumle 10<sup>th</sup>; All PR at the Eaton Invitational
- Girl's Highlights: Newton Invitational—Team 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ella Warren 5<sup>th</sup>, Brynn Byers 7<sup>th</sup>; Blackhawk Invitational—Team 1<sup>st</sup>, Ella Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>; Covington Invitational—Team 4<sup>th</sup>, Ella Warren 7<sup>th</sup>; Several PR at Eaton Invitational

**HS/JH Cheerleading Competition Highlights**

- Tri-Village Competition: JH Dance 1<sup>st</sup>
- Ansonia Competition: HS Gameday 3<sup>rd</sup>, HS Cheer 3<sup>rd</sup>, JH Dance 1<sup>st</sup>, JH Cheer 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Darke County Fair Competition: HS Gameday 2<sup>nd</sup>, HS Cheer 3<sup>rd</sup>, JH Dance 1<sup>st</sup>, JH Cheer 3<sup>rd</sup>



# District Insight

## Arcanum-Butler Local Schools District Newsletter November 2023



**Administration**

Mr. John N. Stephens, Superintendent

Mr. Matthew L. Huffman, Treasurer

Mr. Tyler R. Cates, HS Principal

Mr. Jason L. Vince, MS Principal

Mrs. Joni L Pechie, EL Principal

**Board Members**

Mr. Kelly Norris, President

Mr. Mark Trask, Vice-President

Mrs. Beverly Delk

Mr. Joe LeMaster

Mr. Eric Moore

**Superintendent Updates**

Last May I had the opportunity to chaperone the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington, D.C. trip. It had been years since I had done so, and I thoroughly enjoyed sharing the experience with the kids, teachers, and the K & K tour guide. Despite having been multiple times before, experiencing the history of our great nation provided me with a renewed spirit of pride in our country. Additionally, throughout the trip our guide would use the phrase “Be Present Where Your Feet Are.” It kept our kids focused on taking in all of the sites, especially at times when we were all tired. The saying grew on me as I thought about the importance of getting the most out of every moment both professionally and personally. The phrase is one that I’ve emphasized with our staff for the 2023-2024 school year to hopefully provide some inspiration, guidance, encouragement, or just some food for thought as they go about serving our kids and community.



Throughout this newsletter, along with all other forms of communication during the school year from the district office, principals, teachers, coaching staff, or advisors, we hope to capture and share moments representative of the education we aspire to provide our students. While we all share in days or weeks that go by seemingly slow, in actuality the school years fly by quickly, and before you know it another group of kids graduate from AHS. So, join us this year in celebrating our students, staff, and school and encouraging our student body to be present where their feet are.

This year’s initial K-12 enrollment has the district educating just under 1100 students, within a few students of our enrollment last year overall. Those numbers include a full Arcanum Virtual Academy Program and +151 open enrolled students, but don’t include another approximately 70 students being educated in the Arcanum Early Learning Center. Grade levels range anywhere from 75-100 students, but we strive to keep actual class sizes in and around 20 -23 students in the primary grade levels and closer to 25 students in all other grade levels. Due to our enrollment numbers, we have closed down open enrollment for the year in nearly all grade levels.

Arcanum-Butler Local Schools prides itself in providing students with an outstanding education while preparing our students for future success. We are proud of our tradition of excellence and strive to contribute positively to our community. To help meet the needs of our students and community, the District Leadership Team annually reviews and updates the District Continuous Improvement Plan or CIP. The CIP prioritizes major goals and includes action plans to better serve the students of Arcanum-Butler. Visit our school website and click on the CIP tab for a look at the goals and action plans for the 2023-2024 school year.

*The Trojan Way* continues to be at the core of the development of the student body. The spirit of a Trojan embodies the attributes of *Strength, Honor, and Courage*. Our students can exhibit *Strength* through learning perseverance, accountability and work ethic. By understanding the value of having integrity, respect, and honesty, our students learn the importance of *Honor*. And by embracing challenges with a positive attitude and a growth mindset, our students will have the *Courage* to tackle school and life.

I would like to thank all of the district staff for an excellent beginning of the year and appreciate all of their efforts to help students at Arcanum-Butler be successful. On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, staff and students, your continued support is greatly appreciated and we invite you to stay connected by attending various events throughout the school year. It is truly a blessing to be able to lead and serve Arcanum-Butler Local Schools, and I will continue to work on behalf of our students, staff, families, and community to the best of my abilities.

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Loyal and True,  
*John N. Stephens*

*“The Arcanum-Butler Local School District provides a caring and safe environment where students are challenged to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.”*

## Attention to All Arcanum Veterans

You are cordially invited to the Veterans Day assembly that will be held Thursday, November 9, 2023, at Arcanum-Butler Schools at 1:30 p.m. Please arrive at 1:15 p.m.





**Arcanum-Butler Welcomes New Staff**

Arcanum-Butler Local Schools welcomed new staff members for the 2023-2024 school year with an orientation and lunch on Wednesday, August 23. Staff members were greeted by Superintendent John Stephens who encouraged them to model the Trojan Way, engage students in the classroom, and embrace a student first mentality.

**District Employees**  
Bus Drivers—Dawn Robinette and Gene Peters

**Arcanum Elementary School**  
Reading Intervention Coach—Diane Gray  
Sp Ed Aide—Jill Etherington

**Arcanum High School**  
Principal—Ty Cates  
Lang Arts—Jennifer Arling  
Sp Ed Aide—Josh Gilmore

**Butler Middle School**  
MS/HS Choir; Asst Band—Jessica Berry  
6th gr Lang Arts—Elizabeth Watren  
7th/8th gr Lang Arts—Charity Wright



**Traffic Light Coming to Trojan Avenue**

The Village of Arcanum and the Arcanum-Butler Local School District, in an effort to increase the safety and efficiency of traffic flow during school hours, are partnering to install a traffic light at Main Street and Trojan Avenue and LED flashing lights at Trojan Avenue and Sierra Lane. The work was originally scheduled to take place this past summer, but supply delays have impacted the installment. Please note the following changes related to the work:

- ⇒ The traffic lights will be equipped with radar units to measure traffic volume and help control the flow of traffic accordingly.
- ⇒ The crossing guard will help students crossing at Main Street, but will no longer be out in the intersection directing traffic.
- ⇒ Road marker lines on Trojan Avenue will allow for two traffic lanes exiting onto Main Street. The left lane will be for left turns only, and the right lane will be for right turns and access straight onto Ivester.
- ⇒ No turn on red during school hours signs will be installed.
- ⇒ The 4-way stop at Trojan and Sierra will be changed to a 2-way stop. New LED flashing lights/signs will be installed at the intersection to alert drivers.
- ⇒ Walkers will be asked to cross on school grounds or at Main St. to head north or south and avoid crossing Trojan Avenue at Sierra during school hours.
- ⇒ Vehicles entering and exiting onto school property from Trojan Avenue should avoid blocking the Sierra intersection or using Sierra as a shortcut.
- ⇒ The speed limit on Trojan Avenue will be reduced to 20 mph and will remain at 15 mph upon entering school property near the roundabout.

Upon completion, a visual map will be posted so that parents, students and the community can see the changes. The school principals will notify students of the changes and direction as to the safest way to walk or ride home.



**Hall of Fame Nomination Forms Now Available**

The Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Trojan Hall of Fame has been established to honor those individuals who have made a significant impact through achievement, actions, and contributions within their communities and professions and serve as exemplary role models for Arcanum students.

Criteria for the awards as well as nomination forms are available in the Arcanum Board of Education Office or online at <http://www.arcanum-butler.k12.oh.us/>. The induction will take place at the 2024 Arcanum Alumni Banquet in April. Nominations forms are due by February 1, 2024.

**Kindergarten Readiness Camp**

Arcanum Elementary held the third annual Kindergarten Readiness Camp in late August to introduce incoming kindergarten students to their teachers, tour the building, establish classroom routines, learn about bus safety, and complete beginning of the year assessments. Thank you to the kindergarten teachers, reading specialists, and support staff for assisting and planning this event to help kindergarten students transition to all day learning.

Thank you to the Kindergarten Club for purchasing JumpStart kits, which every kindergarten student received when attending kindergarten screening. The kits contain many resources for parents to use at home to practice foundational reading and math skills.

Thank you also to our district PTO, who supports students and staff in a variety of ways. The annual fall fundraiser is currently taking place. All funds raised go back to the students and staff to purchase classroom materials and sponsor events such as Book Bingo and Trojan Fest. We appreciate the time and commitment our parent organizations dedicate to support our students and staff.



**Middle School News**

The Middle School continues to place an emphasis on parent and student communication. Each grade level has established a Parent Group on the Remind App to share important information regarding grade-level events, assignments, and news. In addition, each grade level has also created Student Groups to help students stay connected. Contact your child’s teacher to join!

During the week of September 18, students had the opportunity to register for MS Clubs. The Club program is in its second year and allows students from all grade levels to meet monthly for enrichment activities and connection opportunities. This year the MS has 17 different Clubs for students to choose from. Clubs are a great way for students to meet new friends who share common interests.



We are excited to announce that Hope Squad has come to the MS. Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program. Hope Squad members are nominated by their classmates as trustworthy peers and trained by advisors. The program reduces youth suicide through education, training, and peer intervention. The program is led by School Counselor Ashley Matheson and Prevention Specialist Megan Smith.

LifeWise Academy began in the Elementary during the 2022-2023 school year and had great success. As a result, the program has been expanded to 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year. LifeWise Academy is a released time religious instruction program that provides Bible based character education to public school students during school hours. Under released time laws, students can be released from public school during the day to attend religious classes, provided the program is off school property, privately funded, and parent permitted. The first LifeWise meeting was held on Monday, September 18.



**Arcanum-Butler Earns 4 Stars On State Report Card**

The Ohio Department of Education recently released report cards for Ohio's School Districts. In the past ODE used a letter grading system, but the new system uses a 5 Star approach. The report card is intended to give you a picture of how our district and buildings are performing using the 5 Star ratings of five components: Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation Rate, and Early Literacy. Below are the grades for the District and each of our buildings.

**Summary of Report Card Components and Grades:**  
**OVERALL RATINGS:**

District	4 Stars
Arcanum Elementary	4.5 Stars
Butler Middle School	4.5 Stars
Arcanum High School	4 Stars



**Achievement Rating: 4 Stars (EL – 5, MS – 4, HS - 4)**

Represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on tests overall.

**Gap Closing Rating: 4 Stars (EL – 4, MS – 5, HS - 5)**

Shows how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for various populations of students in English language arts, math and graduation with the idea that the various populations or groups “close the gap” of an established performance threshold.

**Early Literacy Rating: 4 Stars (Elementary only)**

Is a measure of reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade.

**Progress Rating: 2 Stars (EL – 3, MS – 3, HS - 2)**

Looks closely at the growth that all students are making based on their past performances.

**Graduation Rating: 5 Stars (High School Only)**

Looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four or five years.

The district continues to strive for report card ratings that reflect an accurate picture of student achievement and performance at Arcanum-Butler. Our goal is to see a report card with all 4 & 5 Stars. To do so, we need to increase the number of indicators met on the Achievement component and improve on the Progress Measure. Grades 3-12 are administered a total of 20 tests. Arcanum students scored a 70% or higher on 18 of the 20 and scored an 80% or higher on 7 of the 20 tests. The Performance Index score of 95.9 is the highest since 2019. The Performance Index measures the test results of every student, not just those who score proficient or higher. Through our use of regular classroom assessments, we will continue to identify at-risk students and provide intense interventions for those students to help break the 80% threshold needed to pass all indicators and make additional progress.

The State Report Card also includes other information about Arcanum-Butler Local Schools. Details about school staff, student enrollment and financial data is available. For example, Arcanum-Butler spends less than the state average on per pupil spending, spending \$11,062 compared to the state average of \$11,896.

As we have done in the past, the Arcanum-Butler Local School district will review the data provided by the report card and analyze it to identify strengths and areas needed for improvement. While informative, the district recognizes that many of the report card indicators are based on tests given on a specific day during a specific time and may not provide the entire picture of a child’s learning experience nor does it define the district as a whole. The Arcanum-Butler Local School District is proud of our students and staff for their continued efforts and accomplishments. The Arcanum-Butler Local Schools staff will continue to seek growth and improvement in providing the best experience for students and preparing students to enroll in college, enlist in the military, or be employed full-time.

For the complete district and building-level report cards that includes details and explanations for each graded component, please visit the Ohio Department of Education website at [reportcard.education.ohio.gov](http://reportcard.education.ohio.gov).