



# CARDINAL

JANUARY

2024

# COMMUNIQUE

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



### FACILITY PLANNING UPDATE

In November 2023, Canfield Local Schools placed a bond issue on the ballot to fund the construction of a new middle school, a consolidated elementary school and renovations to Canfield High School. The bond issue was voted down.

Going forward, we will continue to work with residents to understand their needs and create a plan that works for the community and our schools. As construction and renovation costs continue to rise, we will carefully assess our next steps to ensure we can provide students with

the best possible learning spaces. Once our new Board of Education members are appointed in January, the Board will have additional conversations about facilities.

With our current resources, we will continue seeking opportunities to improve safety, educational quality and efficiency. We will also continue to engage with the community to maintain open and transparent communication regarding next steps.

We invite you to email Superintendent Joe Knoll at [jknoll@canfieldschools.net](mailto:jknoll@canfieldschools.net) with any questions you may have related to facilities planning.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, Cardinals!

I hope this message finds you all in good spirits as we kick off 2024. Here's to a year filled with new opportunities, growth, and positivity for each and every one of us.

Reflecting on the past months, I am immensely proud of the achievements we've celebrated as a district. The theme "Positively Canfield" has resonated throughout our journey, and I am optimistic about the momentum we carry into the new year.

This fall has been marked by outstanding achievements. Canfield High School's recognition by the U.S. News and World Report is a testament to the dedication of our students and staff. Achieving the #47 spot among high schools in the state and securing the top position in Mahoning County is a remarkable feat that we can all take pride in.

The Ohio School Report Card results further validate our commitment to academic excellence, with a five-star overall rating and notable scores in key areas. These accomplishments reflect the relentless pursuit of success

by our students, teachers, and staff.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will find important updates about facilities planning, as well as updates from each of our buildings and departments. I am excited to share these examples of the great things happening in our school district every day.

As we chart our course for the remaining months of the school year, I encourage each student, staff member, and community member to build upon the foundation of our past successes. Let's continue to create an environment where every student thrives, every teacher inspires, and every parent partners in their child's educational journey.

Thank you for your passion for education and your commitment to making Canfield Local School District an exceptional place for all. Together, we are Positively Canfield!

Go Cardinals!!

Joe Knoll, Superintendent

[www.canfieldschools.net](http://www.canfieldschools.net)



# CANFIELD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## CURRICULUM UPDATE...

*Mr. John Vitto, Assistant Superintendent*

### Literacy:

Our K-8 teachers are piloting new ELA and reading instructional materials aligned with the structured literacy framework. These materials provide digital tools for both students and teachers. Middle and high school

educators are focusing on evidence-based vocabulary instruction, and we continue to refine our reading intervention programs in all buildings.

### Mathematics:

Canfield proudly hosts Math 24 Challenge teams for grades 4-8, with over 300 participating students. Despite being in its early stages, Canfield is currently ranked 14th in the state. Students practice math skills and the 24 games, earning individual points that contribute to team scores. The Math 24 Game enhances procedural fluency, strategic thinking and adaptive reasoning, fostering higher-order math skills.

### STEM:

The district acquired 75-inch interactive ViewBoards for elementary schools through grant funding, replacing traditional whiteboards. These touchscreens enable dynamic presentations and creative brainstorming by allowing onscreen presenting, writing, editing and drawing. Participation in the Hour of Code is integral to our STEM programs. Students engage in interactive coding activities during this dedicated hour, fostering problem-solving skills and creativity and building a foundation in programming concepts.

Students in our STEM programs embraced holiday-themed projects, creating 3-D printed ornaments, cookie cutters, melted crayon ornaments and string art. These hands-on projects promote innovation and problem-solving and offer a collaborative way for students to express their holiday spirit, illuminating our classrooms with festive creativity and showcasing the endless possibilities of combining technology with the magic of the season.

### Professional Development:

Over the course of two dedicated staff professional development days, our team underwent comprehensive training encompassing various essential domains, including vocabulary instruction, technology integration, artificial intelligence, assessment methodologies, literacy materials, mathematics, subject-specific content pedagogy and special education.



Technology in the classroom enhances student learning.



STEM students embraced collaboration during interactive, hands-on projects.



Interactive ViewBoards in our elementary schools enable hands-on learning for our youngest students.



Students created 3-D printed ornaments as part of our STEM program.



## SPECIAL SERVICES UPDATE...

*Mr. David Spalding, Director*

As a district and community, we continue to focus on supporting our students, staff and families. We consider all students and their progress as individuals: academically, socially, and post-

graduation goals. Our teams utilize student information to guide instructional practice and review educational impact.

Congratulations to students, staff and families at all four buildings and our district team for their Bronze Recognition through the Ohio Department of Education recognizing implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). Our teams continue to teach positive behavioral expectations across educational settings and environments. Ask your student what it means to be safe, responsible and respectful at school and home!

We continue to seek, develop and utilize available support to assist our students. We use the PBIS model to review and revise supports based on observed needs and priorities....



## FISCAL UPDATE...

*Miss Pattie Prince, Treasurer*

The Canfield Local School District has continued to maintain a high level of service to our students, parents and community as indicated by our five-star rating on the most recent 2022-23 report card; the only district in Mahoning County and one of

only 75 in the state with this prestigious designation. This has been accomplished while maintaining an average cost per pupil of \$11,576, which is below the state average of \$11,916. A large percentage of these expenses (70.6%) is spent directly on classroom instruction. The Board of Education and administration closely monitor its revenue and expenditures in accordance with its financial forecast and work diligently to make sure tax dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. This, however, has become increasingly challenging in the post-pandemic, high-inflationary environment that currently exists.

A goal in the most recent strategic plan includes an effort to remain transparent by conducting a bi-annual question-and-answer session regarding the district's financial standing to better inform the community and parents of the current and projected needs. The first such session was held in July and focused on local funding, specifically the impact of the sexennial reappraisal on property tax bills. As this meeting was well received, we will be continuing this in the future.

Due to the current conditions of our aging facilities, the District made two attempts at passing a bond issue to construct a new consolidated elementary and middle school. While both attempts failed, the Board plans to reconvene discussions with the community in 2024 to decide on next steps.

The most recent five-year forecast, complete with assumptions, charts and graphs, can be found at <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Five-Year-Forecasts/Submissions-of-Traditional-and-JVSDs>.



## FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

Canfield Local School District Nutrition Services are self-operated and participate in the National School Lunch Program. We provide quality, nutritious, and well-balanced meals for our students. Menus and additional information are available on the website and the YumYummi app.

Free/Reduced Meals applications can be completed at any time during the year. If you think you may qualify, you can get an application from the school's website or at any of the school offices. Thank you for your support of our Nutrition Services Department.

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATE...

The Transportation Department continues to "Carry the Cardinals" on 32 routes, field trips and events, traveling 40,373 miles for non-routine trips and 358,425 miles for transporting students to and from school safely.

We received two of the three new buses bid on by the district bid in May of 2022. The entire industry is experiencing delays in deliveries of new buses, as well as parts and supplies. In order to facilitate timely repairs, the department is carrying more parts inventories, inspecting buses more frequently to schedule repairs in advance, and working with our vendors to help maintain a steady parts flow. To assist in extending the life of our vehicle fleet and to help offset some costs, the transportation department acquired a new hot water pressure washer for cleaning the exterior and undercarriages of our vehicles.

We had another successful safety day during the National School Bus Safety Week. We would like to extend a personal "thank you" to the Canfield Police Department, The Mahoning County Sheriff's Department, The Ohio State Highway Patrol and Joel Hughes from the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Please remember to stop in all directions while our precious Cardinals are boarding or exiting the buses.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Antal and her students for their beautiful artwork on the bus garage. Thank you for a job well done!

The Transportation Department is still actively recruiting substitute bus drivers. We provide training and pay for expenses, and you can move into a full-time position if you desire. If you are considering a career change, this may be a rewarding opportunity, as you will get the chance to interact with our amazing Cardinals.

If you have any questions on routes, change of addresses, pick up/drop off times, or any other transportation-related questions, please contact Larry Kabetso, our transportation coordinator or Linda Cervello, our transportation secretary, at 330-533-3832.

We appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to safely "Carry the Cardinals."



2023 School Bus Safety Day with local law enforcement.



We thank the Canfield Police Department for their involvement during our bus safety day and throughout the school year.



Officer Kyle Young, Officer Aaron Young, and Deputy Eric Harris did an outstanding job enforcing bus safety.



Mr. Knoll rode along with driver Brenda Holcomb as she "Carried the Cardinals" on Bus Safety Day.



One of our newly purchased school buses, along with our freshly painted mural.



One of our new school buses is proudly displayed at the 2023 Canfield Fair.





## FROM THE PRINCIPALS... DR. MARK POTTS AND MR. RICK PRESCOTT

Canfield High School earned a 5-Star State Report Card, which put us in the top 2% of high schools in Ohio academically. We also had the 17th-best Performance Index Rating out of 880 Ohio high schools. This is a testament to the efforts of our students, parents and teachers. Academically, we are excited to offer 14 Advanced Placements courses, 8 College Credit Plus courses through Kent State and Youngstown State, and a multitude of Honors classes. As a complement to our excellent academics, we are proud to offer a comprehensive athletics program that features 25 varsity sports with an array of junior varsity and freshman opportunities to participate, as well as one of the state's top Speech and Debate teams. CHS also offers high-quality Band, Choir, and Performing Arts opportunities, along with clubs, dances, concerts and an overall great high school experience.



Friday night lights - our football team made it to the district finals.



Seniors' painted parking spaces.



Sisi Nalluri and Whitney Miller make states in Tennis.



Cheerleaders at the Pep Assembly.



District Champion Girls Soccer team made it to the Regional Finals.



## Halloween Fun CHS Style



The Girls' Cross Country team made it to states as a team, and Blake Baker made states for the third time.



CHS Homecoming Court and escorts with Queen Gabby Pantelakis.



CHS student-athletes signing D1 letters of intent.



The spirited CHS student section cheering the team on to victory.



Marching band performing for the halftime show.



Homecoming Dance 2023.



Homecoming Dance 2023.



Champions' Day - celebrating Mahoning County's students with special talents.



Recognizing our veterans and first responders.



Seniors' painted parking spaces.



# CANFIELD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## FROM THE PRINCIPALS... MR. JUDD RUBIN AND MR. JOE MARONI

It has been a very busy and exciting school year thus far. Our students have been working extremely hard in the classroom. Our I-on-I device initiative has been an extremely valuable piece to the learning environment every day. We had a very successful fall athletic season with our football, volleyball and cross-country teams. Hats off to our 7/8th grade cheer squad, who has made Canfield proud! Our "Classy Card Cart" has been a big hit with our students and rewards positive reinforcement for good behavior. Our student council students have been busy with their civic-minded projects. We just completed our annual food drive with Second Harvest Food Bank and donated over 2,200 pounds of food! We are looking forward to many more great memories and activities for our students in 2024!



Our annual student council food drive once again was a huge success. We brought in over 2,200 pounds of food!



Our Physical Science students received a private tour of Dinesol Plastics, a large plastic injection molding company in Niles, Ohio.



6th grader Dominic Ferko earned the first McDonald's Happy Meal from our PBIS "Classy Cards Cart."



Congratulations to our 5/6th grade drama club and Delaney Pallo for an outstanding adaptation of the original "Muppet Show." Thank you also to the staff who participated.



Thank you to all of our community members who donated their time, money and resources to enhance our outdoor classroom for our students!



We kicked off the new school year with a positive message from our guest speaker, David Kahout, who reminded us, "We are in the presence of greatness."



In September, national "Start With Hello" week, a Sandy Hook initiative, gave us the opportunity to mingle with others during grade-level lunches.



Our 3rd annual door decorating contest was another special day at CVMS. Thanks to all of our staff, students, and parents that participated.



Our annual Veterans's Day is always one of the most special events of the year at CVMS. It is student-led and honors and captures the spirit of our community veterans.



Our fall sports recognition assembly recognized athletes participating in football, cross country, volleyball, and cheerleading.





## FROM THE PRINCIPAL... MR. TRAVIS LAVERY

C. H. Campbell Elementary School has had a great start to the school year. We received a 5-star rating in the state of Ohio, which means we significantly exceeded the state standards. This includes 5-star ratings for Achievement, Progress (measuring student growth), and Gap Closing (measuring the decrease of educational gaps in our student subgroups). The school was also honored with a Bronze award for our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S.) program. This program focuses on teaching students about expectations and positively reinforcing those expectations when they are followed. The Building Cards program has been helping our 4th-grade students build character and leadership skills while our S.E.L. classes teach social-emotional skills to all students in all grades.

We are looking forward to an exciting second semester. The students will be showing off their talents and abilities with our Spring performances and exhibitions. This includes performances by our kindergarten, 1st grade and 4th grade students. We have also just started a Kindness Club to help our 3rd-grade students find ways to spread kindness to others throughout the building. Our teaching staff has been tirelessly working to grow professionally and support our students. This will continue with them attending various professional development opportunities on structured literacy, gifted education, and other topics throughout the remainder of the year. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has played a role in making this an exceptional year for our students. We couldn't do it without your support.



First-grade students dressed up like they were from the 50's for the 50th day of school.



Incoming kindergarten students learned about a variety of topics, including fire safety, during our annual Safety Day in August.



Our school resource officers sponsored a coloring contest with our elementary students this year.



Mr. Lavery challenged 4th-grade STEM classes to solve real-world issues with their next project.



Our first Bus Safety Poster Contest was a big success! Winning students went on a bus ride for lunch with Mr. Knoll, Mrs. LaMarca, and the principals.



C. H. Campbell Elementary honors students who make great choices each week as our Cardinal Heroes!



The Cardinal Joint Fire District sponsored a Fire Safety Day, including an inflatable Fire Safety House, to practice an evacuation.



Kindergarten students participated in a fun, hands-on Pumpkin Math activity with parent volunteers.



Students wore pink to help raise awareness for cancer.



Students were wrapped up as mummies with toilet paper during our PTA-sponsored Halloween Party.



Students showed off some great costumes for our annual Halloween Parade.



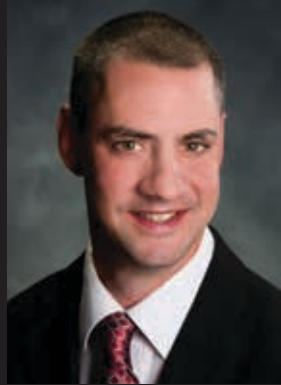
Our annual Veteran's Day Assembly allowed our second-grade students to honor military veterans from all branches of our armed forces.



Second-grade students were excited to welcome their grandparents or another special someone, to our annual Grandparent's Day event.



# CANFIELD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL... MR. MIKE FLOOD

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we reach the midway point of the academic year, it is a great time for us to reflect on our journey so far and look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

This year has been filled with numerous achievements, growth and learning experiences. Our students have shown remarkable dedication and resilience, and our teachers and staff have worked tirelessly to provide the best possible education. I am proud of the way our entire community has come together to support our Hilltoppers.

I also want to express my gratitude to our parents and guardians for their unwavering support. Your involvement and partnership in your child's education are invaluable, and it plays a crucial role in their success.

Thank you for being a part of our wonderful Canfield community. Let's continue to work hand in hand to make this academic year a resounding success. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our dedicated staff.



Pete the Penguin visited Hilltop, and Christian Horvath had the privilege to meet him up close.



Mrs. Rupert's students share the PBIS incentives they work so hard for: Class Cardinals, Individual Money, and Reward Coupons.



Officer Sroka Held his first Thanksgiving coloring contest with the fourth-grade classes Henry, Ricky, Angelina and Madeline were our winners. Each winner won their choice of CPD K9 trading card.



For the second year at Hilltop, we have a mentoring program that has a significant impact on both the high school mentors and the elementary school mentees. Jack Singer, a second grader, is with his High school mentor, Bianca Merlin.



Mrs. Bell's 3rd-grade class collected old pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns from the community & used them to feed our Cardinal's Nest animals, and we used the seeds to plant more pumpkins for next fall. The students also were able to help clean up the raised beds and to get them ready for winter.



Anthony Chamoun takes home a nice basket for this grading period. Thanks to our PTA, who donates five baskets every grading period.



Hilltop wants to thank Mr. Mike for serving in our Military.



Ware and his first-grade friends get a visit by Canfield's mascot



Amelia Amodio, Camilla Drevna, and Layla Amodio are showing their support for those battling Type 1 and 2 Diabetes.



Pierre Latimer is October Rotary Student of the Month. Every month, a 4th-grade student at Hilltop will have this honor.



Lucy Crowgey hangs a PBIS Cardinal earned by her class.

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## CANFIELD ATHLETIC UPDATE...

Greg Cooper, Athletic Director

Canfield's athletic teams continued their tradition of investing in hard work and commitment this past fall, leading to success both on and off their venues of competition.

Our programs at both the high school and middle school provide valuable life lessons while contributing to our students' health and well-being. Everyone is invited to attend any of our athletic events. Tickets may be purchased with cash on-site or online via the athletic website or Home Town Ticket app.

Go Cards!



### CONGRATULATIONS FALL SPORTS!

- Varsity Football Play-Off Qualifiers
- Senior Blake Baker finished 17th at the State Cross Country meet
- Girls Cross Country team qualified for the State Cross Country meet
- Boys Soccer finished as AAC Champions and District Semi-Finalists
- Girls Soccer finished an undefeated regular season and were AAC Champions and Regional Finalists
- Boys Golf finished as AAC Champions
- Girls Golf finished as AAC Champions
- Girls Tennis qualified a doubles team for the State Tournament



### Fall All-American Conference All-Conference Selections and Honors

Canfield sports teams won four out of seven conference championships (Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer) this fall.

Individual honors:

#### Football

1st Team  
DL Angelo DeLucia, Junior  
OLB Anthony Mazzella, Senior  
ILB Danny Inglis, Senior  
OL Mike Malkovits, Senior  
OL Santino Cocca, Senior  
TB Scottie Eaton, Senior  
OL Vince Luce, Senior

#### All North East Ohio

1st Team Offense  
Santino Cocca OL  
Scottie Eaton RB

1st Team Defense  
Danny Inglis LB

2nd Team Offense  
Mike Malkovits OL

2nd Team Defense  
Angelo DeLucia DL  
Anthony Mazzella LB

#### All State Division 3

1st Team Defense  
Danny Inglis LB

#### Boys Soccer

1st Team  
Ethan Mulichak, Senior  
Drew Snyder, Sophomore  
Ryan Dangol, Sophomore

2nd Team  
Zaid Atway, Senior  
Andrew Battaglia, Senior

Player of The Year: Ethan Mulichak

#### Girls Cross Country

Lauren Runion, Senior  
Linsey Plant, Senior  
Sabrina Baskett, Freshman

#### Boys Cross Country

All State: Blake Baker, Senior  
Alexander Hammar, Sophomore

#### Boys Golf

Bryce Roberts, Sophomore  
Nathan Miller, Sophomore  
Mick Ambrose, Sophomore  
Nick Beistel, Senior  
Simon Kovass, Senior



Special Mention: Bryce Daggett

Player of The Year: Mick Ambrose

#### Girls Tennis

1st Team  
Hadley Moser, Sophomore  
Whitney Miller, Junior  
Sisira Nalluri, Freshman

2nd Team  
Gabby Pantelakis, Senior

Riya Sethi, Senior

Player of The Year: Hadley Moser

#### Girls Soccer

All-State  
1st Team - Maci Toporcer  
2nd Team - Hannah Wahib

1st Team  
Hannah Wahib, Senior  
Maci Toporcer, Senior

Vivian Nohra, Senior

2nd Team  
Ava Paris, Junior  
Natalia Santiago, Junior

#### Volleyball

1st Team  
Lauren Miasek, Junior

2nd Team  
Meridith Ross, Junior





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**Meet Our Newest Board  
of Education Members**



**Betsy Ahlquist**

A Canfield resident for the past two decades, Dr. Ahlquist is a proud alumna of South Range High School. She earned a Biochemistry degree from Messiah University and a Doctor of Optometry degree from The Ohio State University College of Optometry. She specialized in ocular disease through her residency at The Ohio State College of Optometry, earning Diplomate status from the American Academy of Optometry. For 19 years, Dr. Ahlquist has been the owner and optometrist at Ahlquist Eye Care.

Dr. Ahlquist has been an active and engaged member of the Canfield community as a dedicated PTA member for 14 years. Dr. Ahlquist volunteers in the library at Hilltop with the PTA and has been actively involved in various PTA activities, including serving on the levy committee and as a room mom. She is also involved in events like the High School Health Fair and regularly attends sporting events, choir and band concerts, and art shows.

Driven by a vision to preserve academic excellence, Dr. Ahlquist emphasizes the importance of vibrant school libraries and a thriving art program. Her goal is to foster greater collaboration between the board, administration, and teachers, focusing on increased communication for the benefit of students. Additionally, Dr. Ahlquist prioritizes the safety and security of students, believing in updating security measures to meet current standards and ensuring their physical well-being. She is also dedicated to developing plans for new or improved facilities that align with the academic excellence Canfield Local Schools strives to achieve.

Dr. Ahlquist and her husband, Jeff, have been happily married for 23 years and are proud parents of three sons, each at different stages of their educational journey—a college freshman, a sophomore, and a first grader.



**Steven DeMaiolo**

With over 30 years of residence in Canfield, Mr. Steven DeMaiolo brings knowledge, educational expertise, and a heartfelt commitment to the future of our schools.

A proud alumnus of Canfield High School, Mr. DeMaiolo graduated in 2004 and continued his education at Youngstown State University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Middle Childhood. His journey in education took him to Canfield Village Middle School, where he dedicated three years to teaching 6th Grade Science and Social Studies. Mr. DeMaiolo then transitioned to the healthcare field, serving as the Director of Operations for Prima Healthcare. Currently, he is self-employed in the real estate industry.

Mr. DeMaiolo's involvement in the Canfield community goes beyond the boardroom and the classroom. For an impressive 18 years, he has coached wrestling at various levels, contributing significantly to the development of Canfield's youth in youth, middle school, and high school programs.

As a Board Member, Mr. DeMaiolo brings a clear vision for the future of Canfield Local Schools. He envisions a collaborative environment where parents, teachers, administrators, the board, and the wider community unite to prepare students to become strong contributors to society. Steven is particularly passionate about building a robust alumni base, improving school facilities, and expanding the curriculum.

In his personal life, he resides in the township with his family—his wife, Beth, and their children Katherine, Ty, Tanner, and Roman.



**WITH  
APPRECIATION**

The Canfield Local School District would like to thank Mr. Wilkeson and Mr. Smallwood for their years of service as Board of Education members. These gentlemen played an important role in meeting our strategic plan goal of integrating technology into the curriculum, being fiscally responsible and transparent, as well as keeping the facilities discussion a priority.



The district has established the Canfield Education Innovation Fund to promote, encourage, and enhance educational opportunities that strengthen and enrich our students' experiences. Staff members may apply for grant dollars for creative, innovative activities.

The fund is dependent on donations (no taxpayer dollars). Donations may be made payable to the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, memo line Canfield Education Innovation Fund. Scan the QR code, or visit [canfieldeducationinnovationfund.org](http://canfieldeducationinnovationfund.org) to donate now.



News and events are available at  
**[www.canfieldschools.net](http://www.canfieldschools.net)**

**CARDINAL COMMUNIQUE**