

ACCENT



CENTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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Grant funding used to improve security

As part of a continuous effort to prioritize the safety of students and staff members, Centerville Schools is using grant funding from the state of Ohio to enhance security measures at every school building.

Since July, contractors have been replacing a number of exterior doors, upgrading door hardware, installing key fob entrance points for staff, and implementing an alert system that will notify the school office if a door has been left open. Over half of the funding for this project was provided through \$843,000 in grants from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, with the remaining balance paid out of the district's permanent improvement fund.

"We are always evaluating district security measures to help keep our students and staff as safe as possible," said Chuck Cowgill, the district's director of business operations. "Every project we complete is an additional layer of protection against potential threats."

Decisions about safety projects are based on security and vulnerability assessments that were conducted in district facilities over the past few years by Ohio Homeland Security and school resource officers from the Centerville

Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

"We understand the importance of creating a safe environment so our students and staff can focus on teaching and learning," said Superintendent Jon Wesney. "We are grateful for the grant funds that have been made available to schools, as well as the support we receive from our local law enforcement partners as we aim to keep up with school safety challenges."

Community members can stay informed of school safety initiatives by visiting www.centerville.k12.oh.us/families/safety.



A contractor from Staffco Construction Inc. replaces an exterior door at Magsig Middle School.



More facility projects: bit.ly/48ar5Y6

CHS science teacher recognized



Boehm

Kim Boehm, a science teacher at Centerville High School, was named Centerville's 2024 Teacher of the Year. She will be recognized during the Board of Education meeting on Feb. 26.

Boehm, who has been teaching in Centerville for 18 years, said she is motivated by those "a-ha" moments with students.

"Sometimes when a student has a question and I help guide them to the answer, there's a wonderful moment when you can see them figure out the concept," said Boehm, who primarily teaches biology to freshmen and sophomores. "That moment keeps me coming back every day. I love being on this learning journey with my students."

Boehm will represent the district as a finalist for the Ohio Teacher of the Year competition, where her credentials will be reviewed by a state selection panel this spring that will choose one individual to be honored as Ohio's 2024 Teacher of the Year.

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Student data: What does it all mean?



Superintendent Jon Wesney shares an update related to the district's strategic plan.

During a typical school day, it can sometimes feel like we are immersed in a sea of testing and student data. This is not necessarily a bad thing. One of the important student growth indicators included in our district's strategic plan is to "use data at all levels to measure impact and progress." This timely student feedback is essential. It allows educators to best tailor instructional approaches to respond to the needs of each of our learners.

Whether you're an educator, a parent, or a community member, making sense of what this data says about an individual student or the school district as a whole can be challenging. What should we pay attention to?

First, it's important to understand that there are state and federal policies that require public schools to administer assessments that measure academic growth and achievement. These required assessments include kindergarten readiness, screenings for dyslexic tendencies, gifted student identification, English language proficiency, and more. Ohio's State Tests are given in grades 3-8. All juniors are expected to take the ACT, and End of Course Exams count toward high school graduation requirements.

Our teachers and curriculum teams continually work to analyze the information they collect through these assessments to discover students' strengths, identify students who need additional support, determine if a specific instructional method is working, and see where instructional improvements can be made. As

an example, Centerville students take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Assessment throughout the year so teachers can get timely feedback, adjust instruction to meet students' needs, and continue supporting students to reach their full potential.

Ohio's State Test results are probably the most visible to the community because they are used to determine State Report Card ratings. Centerville Schools received an overall rating of five stars on

the most recent report card, which is the highest rating possible. There are, however, hundreds of pages of technical documents used to determine how those achievement and progress marks are actually being measured. The state's expectations also can change from year to year, making it difficult to compare progress from one year to the next.

Data from state tests can show us where our schools are succeeding, as well as

areas needing improvement. By looking at broad trends, we can adapt curriculum and allocate district resources to improve student learning. But when all is said and done, these assessments are a snapshot of how a child performed on that given day.

Preparing our students to be responsible, community-minded members of society goes beyond test scores. Although these scores are one indication of academic progress, we're also proud of the growth our students display through their engagement in academics, athletics, fine arts, and the community. I encourage you to get to know your local schools by talking to teachers, students, and other parents, and exploring the broad range of opportunities available to students.



About 400 English learners, like these students at Watts Middle School, are enrolled in Centerville Schools this year, and their families speak more than 40 languages. English language proficiency is one assessment required by the state of Ohio.



Did you know ... Centerville High School and middle school students, like this eighth grader at Tower Heights, have access to Naviance, an online system that provides comprehensive college and career planning. Available through students' Clever dashboards, the software offers assessments and activities to connect their interests and strengths with college and career exploration.



2023-24
by the numbers



8,382

students in
grades PreK-12

1,184

full and part-time
employees



15

district facilities

59 years

average age of
school buildings
in Centerville

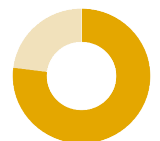
1.3

million square
feet under roof



7,481

public and
nonpublic
students
transported daily



77%

of operating
revenue comes
from local
property taxes

School board approves levy request

*Treasurer Laura Sauber shares information about district finances.**

During their regular meeting in December, the Centerville Board of Education approved a resolution to proceed with placing a levy on the March 19 ballot.

The proposed 3.9-mill operating levy would cost homeowners \$11.40 per month per \$100,000 of home value as determined by the county auditor. The levy would generate \$11.2 million each year for the district's ongoing operational expenses, and additional funds would be used by for day-to-day expenses, which include:

- ▶ Maintaining educational programs and services that meet the learning needs of all students
- ▶ Meeting health and wellness needs to help students develop the skills necessary for learning
- ▶ Expanding college and career pathways
- ▶ Providing co-curricular and extracurricular activities to provide a well-rounded education
- ▶ Recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and support staff during a period of teacher and labor shortages
- ▶ Supporting facility maintenance and renovation projects
- ▶ Keeping up with inflation and the cost of unfunded/underfunded state mandates

An earlier request for additional funding was rejected by voters during the Nov. 7 election. The decision to proceed with placing a reduced levy request on the March ballot was made after several weeks of discussion about district finances at board meetings, as well as input from staff and community members.

Voted levies are the major source of revenue for most school districts in Ohio, and about 77% of Centerville Schools' operating revenue comes from local property taxes. State law freezes the dollar

amount school districts receive from voted levies, which means as property values increase over time, the effective rate of voted levies actually decreases so the district receives the same amount of revenue from one year to the next. This is the main reason school districts must ask voters for additional revenue every few years. As expenses begin to exceed revenue, districts must request more funding or find ways to make reductions, which usually impact the classroom.

Because Centerville Schools will not receive any additional revenue from voted levies in 2024, the district has already implemented some reductions. Additional cuts were announced for the 2024-25 school year during the Jan. 22 board meeting, with more reductions planned if the March levy fails.

Community members can learn more about the levy, school finances, and reduction plans by visiting the district website and by attending school board meetings and community forums.



Centerville-Washington Township residents are invited to attend community forums about district finances at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 22 at Watts Middle School and March 13 at Tower Heights Middle School. These events will include a presentation by district leaders, information about proposed reductions, and an opportunity for questions and answers.

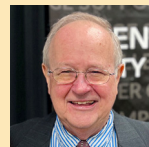


Read more: centerville.k12.oh.us/levy

Membership changes for Board of Education



Allison Durnbaugh (*top*) was re-elected and Dr. Amanda Graf-Hurst (*middle*) was elected for the first time to the Centerville Board of Education. Both of their terms began on Jan. 1. Other board members include John Doll, Dr. David Roer and Megan Sparks.



At the board's Dec. 18 meeting, the district thanked Jeff Shroyer for his 16 years of service as a board member. Shroyer joined the board in 2008 and decided not to seek re-election in 2023.

"From many years of volunteering in various positions, and seeing the quality of the education my kids received at Centerville City Schools, I wanted to give back in gratitude," Shroyer said. "I am grateful to our employees, who everyday I was a board member, gave their all for the kids. And finally, what a pleasure to work with many board members who always had the students and community as their priority."

The board is the governing body of the school district and is made up of five elected citizens who are residents of Centerville-Washington Township. In 2024, Durnbaugh will serve as board president, and Doll will be vice president.

The board typically meets twice per month, and all meetings are open to the public and held in the Centerville High School South Unit Commons. Visit www.centerville.k12.oh.us/about-us/board for the meeting schedule, agendas and minutes, videos of regular meetings, and additional information about the school board.

District earns five stars on 2022-23 State Report Card

The 2023 Ohio School Report Cards were released in the fall, and Centerville City School District earned an overall rating of five stars – the highest possible mark school districts can achieve.

Centerville also received five stars for the Gap Closing and Progress components, and four stars for the Achievement, Early Literacy, and Graduation Rate components.

“We have a lot to celebrate when we look at this data, but it’s also important for us to discuss areas where we can continue to improve,” said Adam Ciarlariello, the director of secondary curriculum.

Cherie Colopy, the director of elementary curriculum, added, “Our students are showing a lot of growth, and we are definitely encouraged by the learning

rebounds we continue to see in our schools. This is directly due to the hard work of our teachers and support staff.”

According to the Ohio Department of Education, report cards show the progress of districts and schools in raising achievement and preparing students for the future. The data can be used to guide school improvement and respond to student learning needs. However, Ohio School Report Cards are not the only measure of the success or accomplishments of a school or district. Talking with parents, neighbors, students and graduates; browsing school and district websites; or visiting schools and meeting educators can provide a more complete picture of educational experiences.



Two third graders from Cline Elementary examine a soil sample during a field trip at Grant Park in September.



View report card: bit.ly/3RPH5ZZ



CEF awards \$10,500 in classroom grants

The Centerville Education Foundation awarded \$10,500 toward 20 different grants, which will be used by teachers in Centerville City Schools for classroom projects in the coming months.

“Reading through this year’s grant proposals, I continue to be impressed with the lengths to which Centerville teachers will go to create unique learning experiences for their students,” said Rajeev Goel, a member of the CEF Board of Trustees.

The Centerville Education Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization founded in 1983 to enrich the educational program in Centerville City Schools, and funds to support these teacher grants were donated by generous community members, parents, students and Centerville alumni. Visit centervilleeducation.org to learn more about the organization.

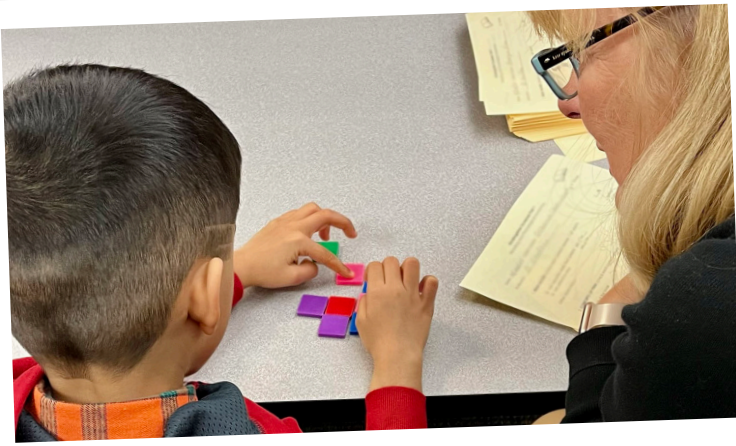


View grant recipients: bit.ly/42gMih6



(top) Tech Time is one of five integrated arts classes offered at Centerville’s 2-5 buildings. Here, fourth graders at Driscoll Elementary solve a puzzle by coding movements for a miniature robot. (right) U.S. military veterans were recognized at Normandy Elementary, along with many other Centerville schools, during a Veterans Day ceremony.





Centerville City Schools will open online kindergarten enrollment for the 2024-25 school year on March 4. Families are asked to complete their registration by March 31 to ensure they can participate in kindergarten screening in late spring. To be eligible for kindergarten during the 2024-25 school year, students must be five years old by Aug. 1, 2024.



CHS Chem Buddies helped kindergartners at Primary Village South learn about classification through a series of interactive stations.



District and community leaders, including our school resource officers, greeted elementary students during Start With Hello Week.



Third graders at Weller Elementary created edible soil to better understand soil layers, using various types of food to represent soil horizons like bedrock, subsoil, and topsoil.



The Kindness Club, made up of second graders at John Hole Elementary, helped fill Good Neighbor bags for Dorothy Lane Market and The Foodbank before the holiday season.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



The "Swervin' Elks" prepare for tip off against Beavercreek during their first game of the season.

Wheelchair basketball team launches inaugural season

A team of 10- to 15-year-olds, many of whom have never played basketball before, let alone from wheelchairs, is breaking barriers and redefining the spirit of sportsmanship in Centerville.

Coaches Kenya Smith and Stacy Riste stepped up to coach the first-ever team of wheelchair basketball athletes at Centerville Schools.

The team is made up of 13 members, both with and without physical disabilities, so the coaches acknowledge the importance of understanding individual capabilities and pushing the players to be accountable while ensuring a fun and inclusive environment.

"The biggest challenge has been meeting them where they are," Smith said. "There are some skills they're still learning to do. We have to remember that it's not about winning, but we want them to understand that you still need to have a competitive spirit."

Guidance and support come from Adaptive Sports Ohio, a foundation established in 2009 to help individuals with physical disabilities experience the benefits that sports offer. They provide training for coaches, oversee the league, supply specialized sport wheelchairs, and help with ongoing equipment maintenance. The organization has set up 13 interscholastic wheelchair basketball teams, facilitating the growth of adaptive sports across Ohio.

Seventh grader Maggie Monnin, a newcomer to basketball, finds joy in the camaraderie and hard work shared with her teammates. Reflecting on the experience, she said, "We've all grown so much this year. It's really fun to have a coach that's good at what he does, and it's fun that he challenges us."



Local nonprofit recognized for school safety initiatives

Centerville Safe, a nonprofit that collaborates with Centerville Schools to support the implementation of safety and security best practices, was recognized with a Serve Thy Neighbor Award from Kenneth L. Parker, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio.

The volunteer organization was founded in 2019 following the mass shooting in Dayton's Oregon District. After that incident, a group of parents got together and decided they needed to get more involved in school safety.

"We saw a need and we wanted to take action," said Emily Bookwalter, vice president of Centerville Safe. "At times, you feel helpless when you see these kinds of situations happen, and supporting initiatives in our schools is something we could help with."

Over the past four years, the group has assisted with funding for surveillance equipment, purchased more than 500 emergency kits for classrooms, and partnered with the school district to offer a free safety series that focuses on topics such as mental health, online safety, and active shooter training.

"We are thankful for our partners at Centerville Schools, the Centerville Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and the Washington Township Fire Department," said Emily Denlinger, president of Centerville Safe. "We are proud of what we are building in Centerville to foster a holistic approach to Protecting the Herd."

All K-5 buildings named Schools of Excellence in Prevention

All eight of Centerville's primary and elementary schools were named Schools of Excellence in Prevention (SEP) by the Montgomery County Educational Service Center.

Primary Village North, Primary Village South, Cline, Driscoll, John Hole, Normandy, Stingley and Weller elementary schools were recognized for making significant efforts to plan for and implement prevention programs and strategies to support mental wellness in their school communities.

According to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, students spend five to six hours a day in school, making it the optimal place to promote healthy behaviors and student resilience. The mission of SEP is to assist schools with implementing best-practice prevention services and strategies in order to create healthy, drug-free environments that promote optimal mental health for students, parents, teachers, and staff in the school community.



Members of Centerville High School's Hope Squad help Stingley Elementary students make friendship bracelets.

"The program has aligned itself with our core beliefs about children, learning, and the importance of regulation," said Katie Thornton, principal at Stingley Elementary. "Our school has prioritized training our staff and students about the brain, how they can regulate themselves to access their cortex for learning, and the importance of establishing relationships. All these things create a sense of belonging, safety, and community, which are the foundations for a successful learning environment."

National Merit scholars recognized at CHS

Twenty-seven academically talented Centerville High School students were recognized during the school's annual National Merit Recipient Assembly.

► **Semifinalists:** Ha-Min Bae, Brianna Becker, Evelyn Boller, Arya Gadre, Sandhya Narayanan, Husain Raja, Shivam Saravanan, Raymond Song, Anthony Yu, and Leah Yu

► **Commended Scholars:** Conor Anderson, Anthony Argue, Charles Balsom, Jacob Barnes, Alexis Becker, Matthias Berry, Aleksandra Claflin, Caden Conde, Kate Drabenstott, Ethan Lu, Alexis Markowski, Brandon Oh, Benjamin Paden, Kirtan Patel, Huzefa Sadiq, Robert Sitov, and Allison Wagner

Centerville's 10 Semifinalists are part of a distinguished group of only 16,000 students nationwide, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and the highest scoring entrants in each state.



Did you know ... Centerville Schools provides free gun locks to help secure firearms. These can be picked up by any community member at the Board of Education Office, 111 Virginia Ave., during regular business hours.

2022-23 Quality Profile Highlights

As we enter a new calendar year, we're taking an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments during the 2022-23 school year. View the full profile on our website: www.centerville.k12.oh.us/about-us/district-profile



Centerville Schools earned an overall rating of 5 stars on the 2022-23 Ohio School Report Card -- the **highest possible mark** school districts can receive.

A group of teachers, students, parents, administrators, and community members collaborated to develop the **Portrait of an Elk**, highlighting 5 important skills all students should develop during their time in Centerville Schools.



8,239

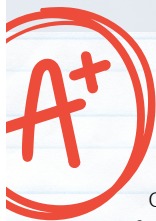
students in grades PreK-12 enrolled in Centerville Schools, a **1.3% increase** over the previous school year.

94.9%

Centerville High School's 4-year graduation rate of 94.9% for the Class of 2022 was **7.6% higher than the state average.**

25

The Elks Express mobile learning station participated in more than 25 events to **connect with families** in their neighborhoods.



Centerville Schools were **rated A+ by Niche.com** lifestyle website, which connects people to their future schools, neighborhoods and workplaces. CHS was ranked #2 among public high schools in the Dayton area.

ParentSquare communication platform was launched, **streamlining communication efforts** from the classroom, school, district, and extracurricular levels.

1,452,354 meals were provided to students during the 2022-23 school year, which is a **20% increase** from pre-pandemic numbers.



27% of our students are part of a **minority ethnic group.**



13% of our students are identified as having **special needs.**



315 of our students are **English learners** whose families speak 40 different languages.



27% of students in grades 2-12 were **identified as gifted.**



Over half of Ohio's State Tests taken by our students resulted in **Accomplished, Advanced, or Advanced Plus** scores.



About 38% of students had a **medical alert** of some form.

Centerville teachers mentored 14 college students from **underrepresented racial and ethnic populations** as they work toward their teaching degrees.

Centerville Schools received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the GFOA -- the **highest form of recognition** in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

182 parents and 61 community members served as **Academic Volunteers**, logging 7,326 service hours and supporting 4,650 students.



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Jon T. Wesney, Superintendent

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EDDM

ECR WSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

A school newsletter for residents of Centerville-Washington Township



The building at 192 W. Franklin, which now houses Magsig Middle School, is celebrating 100 years! Students in grades 1-12 were welcomed into the new building in 1923. The name of the building was changed from Washington Township School to Magsig Junior High in 1963 to honor Clarence W. Magsig, who served as a school board member from 1940-1956 during some of the district's most rapid growth. These photos, both from the late 1930s, were shared by Centerville-Washington History.



Mark your calendar

- Feb. 16-19** No school - Presidents Day
- Feb. 22** Community Forum - 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m.
- March 12** *Screenagers: Under the Influence* film screening - 7 p.m.
- March 13** Community Forum - 6:30 p.m.
- March 18** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m.
- March 19** Election Day
- March 22-31** No school - Spring Break
- April 22** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m.
- May 18** Class of 2024 Commencement
- May 24** Last day of school
- May 28** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m.



Stay up-to-date with your local schools: Get district news delivered to your email each week! Visit bit.ly/3qtaLAO or scan this code to sign up.