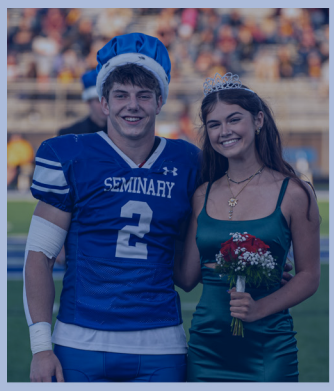
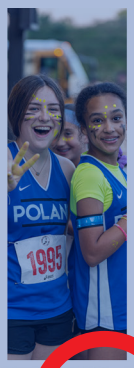
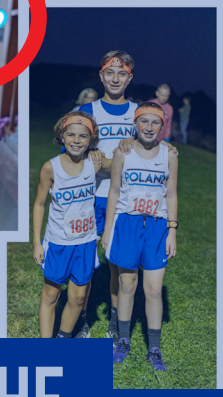
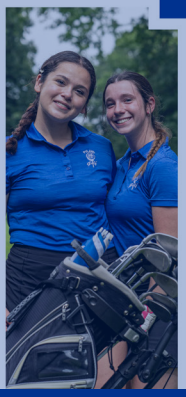
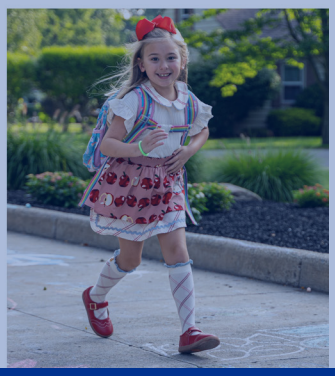


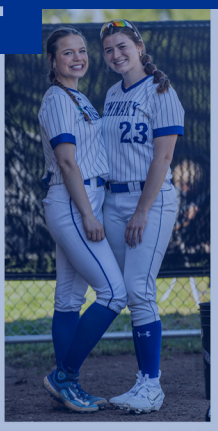

















# THE BULLDOG BULLETIN

## 2023 - 2024

# FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Poland Residents,

Here we go again; 2023-2024 topped ALL the charts! Our academic ranking came in with McKinley and Poland Middle School earning the highest award in the state getting tagged with a FIVE STAR ranking with the Seminary close behind with a 4.5 STAR ranking. We showed growth in nearly every aspect measured by the Ohio Department of Education. We hit our mark for compliance for special education with a 4.0 score, which is the highest you can receive. We were granted EXEMPT status by the Ohio Department of Education for three straight years of meeting the academic performance benchmarks. We also had a remarkable 151 students earning College Credit Plus at the Seminary.

We continued our athletic dominance in the Northeast 8 Conference earning nine conference titles and several athletes earning **Player of the Year.** We all had the chance to enjoy the great sounds of the Poland Marching Band, Choir, musicals, plays, and art shows across Mahoning County.

We ended the year with a strong, healthy Five-Year financial forecast, clean audit, and a detailed Forging Bulldog Forward, a long-term plan for repairing and maintaining our facilities.

This is all because of our amazing teachers, incredible students, principals, dedicated support staff, and supportive parents who are a part of sensational culture winning at Poland.



**Craig Hockenberry**
Superintendent

## 2023-2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

### PSHS RANKINGS - U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Poland Seminary High School ranked in the **top 8%** of Ohio high schools (78th) , **top 13%** nationally (2,145th), and second in Mahoning County according to the U.S. News & World 2023 Report.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION SCORES 4.0 RATING

Poland Local School District's Special Education program earned the **"Meets Requirement"** rating with a **4.0 compliance score** and results score. The program received the highest rating (4.0) across seven categories.

### FIVE STARS FOR MCKINLEY & POLAND MIDDLE

**Poland McKinley Elementary & Poland Middle School** received the **Overall 5-Star Building Award** from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for student performance on the Traditional Report Card.

### PSHS EARNS SILVER AP HONOR ROLL

Poland Seminary High School's Advanced Placement® (AP) program earned **Silver Honor Roll** recognition for increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

### POLAND SCHOOLS GRANTED EXEMPT STATUS

Poland Local School District has been granted "Exempt Status" for three school years beginning in the 2023 for meeting state performance benchmarks. Exempt status gives school districts flexibility in decision-making and hiring.

## POLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION



Board President
**Mr. Larry Warren**



Board Member
**Mrs. Michelle Elia**



Board Vice President
**Mr. Gregg Riddle**



Board Member
**Mr. Jeff Sabrin**



Board Member
**Dr. Laurent Dinopoulos**



CFO/Treasurer
**Mrs. Janet Muntean**





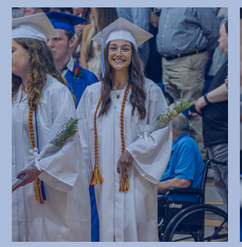

## POLAND SEMINARY HIGH SCHOOL

# CLASS OF 2024




The 150 graduates of Poland Seminary High School's Class of 2024 received their diplomas on May 25. Poland Local School District congratulates its graduates and wishes them success in their future endeavors.

## $2,957,024
## EARNED IN SCHOLARSHIP





Colonel John Boccieri was the commencement speaker, offering sage advice to the Class of 2024. He encouraged students to adopt gratitude as their attitude.



## 90 GRADUATES ATTENDING OHIO COLLEGES/SCHOOLS

## CLASS OF 2024 VALEDICTORIANS



Congratulations to the 13 valedictorians of Poland Seminary High School's Class of 2024.
**(Left to Right):**
Ryan Snyder, Michael Corfias, Helen Faur, Matt Matiste, Bella Khoury, Matt Butch, Maddie Garwood, Owen Puhl, Nadia Zarbaugh, Cole Fulton, Leanne Williams, Camden Gomon, Vince Zuccaro

## 1,531 COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS SEMESTER HOURS EARNED




Class Speaker Owen Puhl addressed the graduating class at commencement, reminding the graduates of their accomplishments.



Owen Puhl has earned a prestigious National Merit Scholarship, granting him $2,500 for college studies. He was selected from over 15,000 finalists, assessed by a panel of college admissions officers and high school counselors for his academic excellence, PSAT/NMSQT scores, leadership roles, and potential for success in rigorous college environments. Owen will attend Columbia University in Fall 2024.



## TWO GRADUATIONS

Bianca Patrone completed an impressive academic journey, graduating with a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University through the College Credit Plus program before her high school commencement. Starting her college coursework in eighth grade, Bianca was the first CCP student at YSU to achieve this milestone, demonstrating the profound impact the CCP program has in providing students with accelerated academic pathways.

# ACADEMICS

## TOP DOG EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

### BULLDOG BAKE-OFF



In Mrs. Walton's class, eighth-grade students transformed into budding entrepreneurs during the Poland Bake Shoppe Bake-Off. Teams created pop-up bakeries, showcasing freshly baked desserts alongside detailed business plans, which included company names, logos, slogans, commercials, and social media ads.

### SOIL SLEUTHS



The Mahoning Soil and Water Conservation District made a memorable visit to Mrs. Tekac's sixth grade classes, transforming students into "soil sleuths." Through hands-on experiments, they tested the permeability of various materials like soil, gravel, and sand, observing how water filters through materials.



### HANDWRITING

Four students from McKinley Elementary were chosen as grade level finalists to represent the Bulldogs in the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. McKinley's representatives this year include Chloe Clark and Emme Morgan from Grade 1, Emily Vivo from Grade 2, and Benjamin Metzinger from Grade 3. Emme Morgan earned a medal of excellence for her submission.

### BOOK CLUBS

Sixth-grade students at Poland Middle School built friendships through literature by forming small book clubs. Throughout the first half of the school year, each group selected a book to read and discuss. Book club meetings allowed students to share their views, enhancing their reading comprehension, communication skills, and peer connections. If students had questions for the authors, Mrs. Shaffer would contact them and receive responses!








### TECH TALK

Students in the PSHS App Design & Video Production classes, led by Mr. Williams, furthered their digital media skills by launching simulated businesses and producing short films. App Design students created digital content, websites, advertisements, and sales incentives using modern applications. Meanwhile, Video Production teams crafted short films, incorporating color grading, storytelling tactics, and audio engineering. Today's students, shaping tomorrow's media.



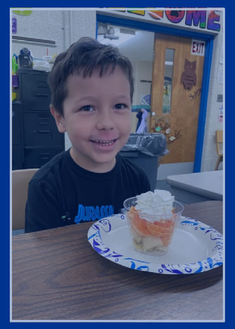
### 137 DIGITS

Congratulations to Addison Shilling, a fifth-grade student at Poland Middle School, for memorizing **137 digits** of Pi during the annual Fifth Grade Pi Day competition. Over 25 students employed various techniques such as singing songs, using photographic memory, and storytelling to memorize the digits.



### BIOGRAPHIES

Fourth graders honed their presentation skills by delving into the lives of influential figures. From presidents to athletes and celebrities, students showcased their research and creativity through presentations, quizzes, mock news interviews, and dioramas. This project brought history to life in the classroom!



### FOOD FRIDAYS

Mrs. Anzevino led her Bulldogs in baking a variety of tasty treats on many Fridays, from candy corn and fruit sundaes to gingerbread cookies. Students explored different types of apples, learned about ingredients in healthy desserts, and practiced following recipes. While the young chefs didn't always favor the flavors of their creations, they adapted by making gingerbread ornaments for the Christmas tree in December, rather than edible treats.



### RIGHT TO READ WEEK

In February, McKinley Elementary celebrated Right to Read Week with a delightful Dr. Seuss twist. Students embraced the fun by dressing up for themed days inspired by the author's characters. During the "Stop, Drop, and Read" event, teachers invited someone special to them to visit classrooms and share a favorite book!



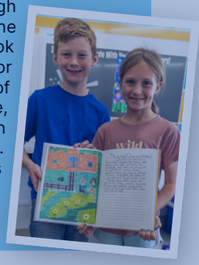






### "U IS FOR UNIQUE"

Second grade students at McKinley Elementary have become published authors and illustrators through their participation in the Studentreasures National Book Challenge. Their book, "U is for Unique," explores themes of individuality and acceptance, inspired by their bond with Mrs. Wagner's son, Blake. The book, which highlights the special qualities that make each person unique, is dedicated to Blake.



### YSU ENGLISH FEST



More than 35 junior high and high school students participated in the YSU English Festival, with eleven students earning accolades in categories ranging from limericks to trivia and art. Junior Elliana Volpini, freshman Connor McNinch, and eighth-grader Elijah Creed each won first place in "I Love Limericks."

### TO STATE!

PSHS Speech & Debate qualified for state during a successful season. From left, Liam Burk, Arjun Tuli, Erika Casey, Rashmeet Kaur, Owen Puhl, Rowan Downie, and Jasmeet Kaur received recognition.






### QUIZ BOWL

The PSHS Quiz Bowl team scored many victories and finished the season as qualifiers for the national tournament. In the Mahoning Tournament, the team took fourth place against local schools.

### FOREST FINDINGS



Students from Mrs. Queen's AP Biology classes at PSHS took the classroom outside to Poland Municipal Forest! They were joined by Dr. Ian Renne from Youngstown State University to review the ecology and biodiversity of Poland, Ohio. From examining leaves to spotting woodpeckers, each encounter with nature sparked thoughtful discussions about the species native to Northeast Ohio.



### STEM INGENUITY





Students in middle school and junior high put their STEM skills to the test. Students crafted nickel launchers from cardboard and rubber bands and built rubber band-launched cars using bottle caps or CDs as wheels. They also designed and constructed cardboard arcade games, which they showcased to kindergarteners who tested their creations and played for prizes.



### SPOOKY STUDIES

For Halloween, Bulldogs embarked on a spooktacular adventure. Kindergarten students joined Mr. Bones for a thrilling science scavenger hunt, discovering the reactive mysteries of baking soda and vinegar. Second grade classrooms turned haunted and eerie as students competed to create the scariest multiplication and addition array city. Meanwhile, the eighth graders tested their comprehension skills by navigating a digital escape room based on a novel they had read.

# ARTS

## BARKING BEATS & CREATIVE TREATS



## ART FINDS A HOME



In sixth grade at Poland Middle School, **Julian Colella** submitted artwork for the Lions Club Peace Poster contest in October 2023. His piece caught the eye of two members of the Poland Lions Club, who found it reminiscent of their new puppies. Julian's artwork was purchased by his newfound friends! The artwork portrays a puppy in a field dreaming of a world where treats rain down.

### *ART'S IMPACT*

**Nina Gordon** is pursuing Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability at The Ohio State University.

*"Throughout high school, art class has been a place for me to relax and express myself during the long school days."*





### TO THE BUTLER!

Twelve student artworks from McKinley Elementary and Poland Middle School were chosen for display at the Butler Art Museum's Young Artists Exhibition in March 2024. Vincenzo Ferraro, a fifth-grader from Poland Middle, secured first place in his grade level!



McKinley Elementary and Poland Middle School Bulldogs studied the works of artists like Piet Mondrian, Alma Thomas, and Keith Haring.

## MCKINLEY & MIDDLE SCHOOL



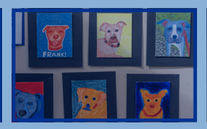
## ART SHOWS

Poland Seminary High School hosted the annual art show and exceptional art show in 2024. To view all artwork from the 2023-2024 school year, visit polandbulldogs.com/art.



















## SILVER KEY PORTFOLIO

**Katie Biggs** received a Silver Key award at the Northeastern Ohio Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition in January 2024 for her portfolio.



*"The environments I am surrounded by have always influenced my artwork and inspired their outcomes. For instance, my pieces in this portfolio represent parts of nature I find beautiful. This concept of surroundings is one of the reasons I plan to become an interior designer. I want to help others feel at peace with their own surroundings," said Biggs.*





## OVER 40 COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES IN 2023-2024!



### POPSTARS & OUTLAWS

Poland Seminary High School's talented Poland Players captivated audiences with their performances of "Robin Hood" and "Popstars!" The comedic delivery in "Robin Hood" had everyone laughing, while "Popstars!" dazzled with live band renditions of 90s hits. The intensive musical numbers and fast-paced scenes showcased the students' remarkable talent.



### THE BULLDOG BLUES

On their trip to Nashville in March 2024, the PSHS Band performed outside of the Country Music Hall of Fame, enjoyed a recording session in RCA Studio B, and developed skills in a clinic at Belmont University.



### TOY TUNES & HOME RUN HITS

McKinley Elementary's second grade students came to life in December 2023 as toys in "Toys!: The Night They Come Alive!" The first grade students swung us home in May 2024 with a grand slam performance of "It's a Hit!"

## HIGH NOTES



### SOLO & ENSEMBLE

PSHS Band members excelled at the OMEA District V Solo & Ensemble, earning 10 Superior (I) and 4 Excellent (II) ratings. Junior High students garnered 11 Superior (I) and 3 Excellent (II) ratings. Pictured above are Katelyn Hupp, Emma Ebie, and Helen Faur, whose flute trio received a Superior (I) rating.



### HONORS BAND & CHOIR

Five PSHS student musicians represented Poland in the OMEA District V Honors Choirs in October 2023. Seven PSHS student musicians represented Poland in the OMEA District V Honors Band in November 2023. The groups consist of the best young musicians in Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull County music programs.



### JAZZ HONORS BAND

PSHS Seniors Jason Vuksanovich (Bass/ Guitar) and Ethan Ho (Vibraphone) have represented the music program in the OMEA District 5 Honors Jazz Band since its inception in 2021. For the third consecutive year, they were admitted to the band to perform challenging jazz repertoire amongst the best young local musicians.

## PSHS PEP BAND ROCKS



The PSHS Pep Band brought the energy to this year's basketball games, grooving to smooth renditions of crowd favorites like "Sweet Caroline" and "Rock With You." Mr. Hvizdos may have jammed out with a sax solo on a few tunes too!

## HOWLING HARMONY



The PSHS Chamber Choir showcased a mix of traditional and modern pieces at their two concerts this year. On Veterans' Day, they delivered a heartfelt performance of patriotic songs and collaborated with the PSHS Wind Ensemble for the "Armed Forces Salute," paying tribute to the United States Armed Forces.



### *FUTURE IN MUSIC*

**Samantha LaHart** is pursuing music performance at The College of Wooster.

*"Being involved in band at PSHS helped me reach newer heights of performance and changed aspects of how I see my future and daily life."*



# ATHLETICS

## 9 NE8 CONFERENCE TITLES

2024 BRUCE BROWN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PSHS ATHLETICS

Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Ohio


GIRLS GOLF


GIRLS SOCCER


BOYS SWIM & DIVE


BOYS GOLF


7TH CONSECUTIVE
GIRLS BASKETBALL


BASEBALL


GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY


BOYS BASKETBALL


5TH CONSECUTIVE
BOYS TENNIS

# NE8 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

**ALL-CONFERENCE**

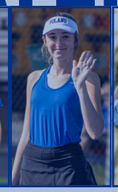
**9** PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

**48** FIRST-TEAM SELECTIONS

**30** SECOND-TEAM SELECTIONS


**MICHAEL DALEY**
*BOYS SOCCER*


**SOPHIA GENERALOVICH**
*GIRLS SOCCER*


**LUCIENNE HOPPS**
*GIRLS TENNIS*


**ANGELO RINALDI**
*BOYS GOLF*


**IAN VANDERVORT**
*SWIM/DIVE*


**SEAN ZURA**
*SWIM/DIVE*


**MARY BRANT**
*BASKETBALL*


**MARY BRANT**
*SOFTBALL*


**ANDREW AEY**
*BOYS TENNIS*

## SEVENTH STRAIGHT NE8 TITLE

The Poland Bulldogs girls basketball team secured their seventh consecutive NE8 Conference title, finishing the season at 14-8 and 11-1 in conference play. Notable achievements included two buzzer-beater victories: a 43-41 win over Girard and a 33-32 triumph against Struthers, with winning shots scored by senior Leanne Williams.





## A THRILLING SEASON

The Poland Bulldogs football team, bolstered by 18 seniors, finished a standout 10-2 season in 2023. Highlighting their victories were cinematic wins against longtime rivals Canfield Cardinals 10-7 in the Battle of 224 and neighboring Struthers Wildcats 28-27 in overtime.

## STATE QUALIFIERS

**ANGELO RINALDI**
Boys Golf - Grade 9



**MCKENNA DALEY**
Girls Diving - Grade 9



**IAN VANDERVORT**
Boys Swim - Grade 11



**ELLA THOMAS**
Girls Wrestling - Grade 9



POLAND BULLDOGS

## SCHOOL RECORDS

**ANGELO RINALDI**
Boys Golf - Individual 9 Holes - 31 (TIE)

**ANGELO RINALDI**
**MATTHEW MORRONE**
**MICHAEL CHAMBERS**
**ZACH LIVOSKY**
Boys Golf - Team 9 Holes - 139 (TIE)

**SEAN ZURA**
**AARON VANDERVORT**
**JAKE O'BRUBA**
**IAN VANDERVORT**
Boys Swim - 200 Freestyle Relay - 1:32.54

**JAKE O'BRUBA**
**GABE BETTROSS**
**AARON VANDERVORT**
**IAN VANDERVORT**
Boys Swim - 200 Medley Relay - 1:45.05

## OHSAA RECORDS

**MARY BRANT**
Softball - Most RBI, Game - 10 RBIs

**LUCY HARRELL**
Girls Lacrosse - Most Goals, Game - 11 Goals

POLAND BULLDOGS

## COLLEGE SIGNINGS

**MARY BRANT**
Softball - Robert Morris University

**COLE FULTON**
Football - Colgate University

**JAEDEN FORD**
Football - Muskingum University

**ANTONIO MEDINA**
Football - Muskingum University

**COLE EATON**
Lacrosse - Muskingum University

**JACOB ZURA**
Lacrosse - Tiffin University

**DOMINIC ELIA**
Baseball - Tiffin University

**RYAN DILULLO**
Baseball - PennWest California

**ZACH LIVOSKY**
Golf - Westminster College

**KATELYNN ROBERTS**
Golf - Goucher College

**LEANNE WILLIAMS**
Soccer - University of Mount Union

## PSHS CHEER EXCELS AT CTA CHEER COMPETITION

In November, PSHS Cheer participated in the CheerTime Athletics (CTA) Cheer Competition. The team won first place in the Game Day Division and second place in the Traditional Mount Division. They were named Grand Champion for their Game Day/Halftime performance. The Bulldogs attended CTA's summer camp and brought Poland spirit to football and basketball games.



POLAND BULLDOGS

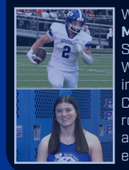



## SERVICE

### PSHS ATHLETICS EARNS DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

The United Way of Youngstown/Mahoning County awarded the PSHS Athletic Department with the Dedicated Service Award at their annual meeting. Each year, the United Way Classic Basketball Tournament hosted at PSHS supports their efforts in helping the community.

## CHARACTER



WYTV recognized seniors **Mary Brant** and **Cole Fulton** as Student Athletes of the Week. With 4.0 GPAs and involvement in the community, both Mary and Cole were honored for their well-rounded character, excelling in academics, athletics, and other extra-curriculars.

***·Athletics Mission·***

*The Poland Athletic Department is committed to cultivating well-rounded individuals who are equipped to positively contribute to both their community and society at large.*

BULLDOGS

POLANDBULLDOGS.COM/ATHLETICS

# ACTIVITIES

## MAKING A PAWSITIVE IMPACT



**CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

The Poland Seminary High School Student Council and the Poland Middle School PANDA Club led a successful Food Drive, rallying support from students, parents, staff, and community members. Together, they collected over 13,000 food items for the Poland Food Pantry. The 2022 donation sustained the pantry for an entire year, and plans are underway for another drive in November 2024.



**BIG DOG, LITTLE DOG**

During their study halls, PSHS students visited McKinley Elementary for the 'Big Dog, Little Dog' program, where they spent each week assisting younger students and teachers with assignments and activities. This initiative not only helped the students academically but also fostered new friendships and created lasting memories. The excitement was palpable each time the "big dogs" arrived, greeted by hugs and high fives from their "little dogs."

The Poland Middle School Kindness Club and the PSHS Interact Club collaborated to create goodie bags filled with small toys and positive messages for children in need. High school students assisted middle schoolers in this effort and extended their kindness by visiting local nursing homes, sending cards to Poland neighbors, and running collection drives for foods/essentials. Their collective actions brought joy and support to various groups within the community.

**THE KINDEST COLLAB**






**PAWSITIVE LEADERS**

McKinley's Pawsitive Leaders Club set a goal to promote positivity throughout the school. They decorated hallways with reminders for Bulldogs to stay positive, respectful, responsible, and safe. At their monthly meetings, they committed to spreading positivity through actions.



**KINDNESS CLUB**

The Poland Middle School Kindness Club actively supported the community by crafting tie blankets, writing holiday cards for veterans and nursing home residents, and promoting kindness throughout the school with positive messages and posters.





**CLINGAN CLEANUP**

As a final act of service for the 2023-2024 school year, the PSHS Student Council led a Clingan Cleanup event. Throughout the year, student council members set a strong example for their peers.



McKinley Elementary participated in the Kids Heart Challenge, raising over $27,000 for the American Heart Association! Thank you to all community members for donating.

**OVER $27k!**






**START WITH HELLO**

During "Start With Hello" week, Poland Local Schools embraced the spirit of inclusion with a series of themed days, each presenting unique challenges aimed at fostering connections among students. Emphasizing the importance of teamwork in the Bulldog community, activities encouraged students to reach out and include peers who might feel isolated. We are all Poland Bulldogs!



**RECYCLING**

Mrs. Creed's Poland Middle School Bulldogs led a highly successful recycling initiative. The students designed flyers, placed recycling receptacles around the school and wrote morning announcements to motivate the student body to actively participate in recycling.






**SPREAD KINDNESS**

During the holiday season, the spirit of kindness radiated throughout Poland Local Schools. Mrs. Kelliher's second grade class celebrated the lunchroom staff members by gifting them presents and performing daily songs and dances. Meanwhile, Mrs. Martin's fifth graders engaged with a 'kindness calendar,' completing daily challenges to spread kindness leading up to winter break.



**LEMONADE STAND**

Miss Lawless' second grade students hosted a lemonade stand to raise over $400 for pediatric cancer research. The students designed banners and prepared the lemonade, while also crafting thank you cards for supporters. Principal Beard praised their efforts, saying, ***"Our children did what kids do best: they saw a problem and came up with a sweet and simple solution. These are the kids that will change the world."***



# ANECDOTES

## TAIL-WAGGING TALES OF 2023-2024



### BULLDOGS & BROWNS

Mrs. Herdman's third grade class showed their support for Cleveland Browns running back Nick Chubb by creating get well soon cards and a video sending their best wishes after his season-ending injury. Their heartfelt gesture caught the attention of the Cleveland Browns' social media team, who shared the video, quickly making these thoughtful students go viral in Ohio, reaching over one million people!



The PSHS Science Department flexed its new academic muscles with the introduction of "Hugh Mann", a detailed anatomy model. This new resource sponsored by the Ebert family has enhanced learning in anatomy classes, providing students with hands-on experiences to better understand human anatomy & physiology.



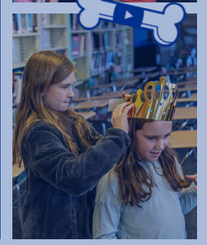
The Bulldogs attended Champions Day in Canfield! Students ran through the marching band tunnel for their introduction and participated in fun sports activities. In February, the Bulldogs were treated to a VIP experience to watch the Boys Basketball team at an exciting home game.



### WHAT THEY LOVE...

Ms. Landers' fourth grade classes participated in a video project this year where they were tasked with sharing details about the things they love in life. From brainstorming to their final presentations, we captured behind-the-scenes footage showing the Bulldogs hard at work. The students excelled at storytelling on camera, bringing their personal passions to life as effective communicators.





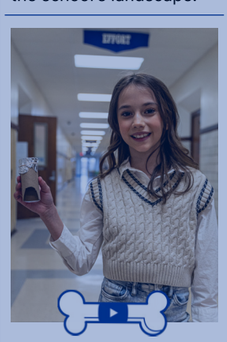
### A TRIP TO EGYPT

Mrs. Shaffer's sixth grade students created a captivating "ride-along" presentation on Ancient Egypt, complete with props, scripts, and a set. They invited elementary students to the show, guiding them on a ride along the river, followed by interactive activities such as crown making, pyramid building, and hieroglyphic name writing. Capturing this sweet moment moved Mr. Nico to tears!





Immersive learning blossomed at PSHS with the opening of a new greenhouse, funded by a mini-grant from the Poland Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence. This facility provides botany students with a hands-on opportunity to cultivate their own plants. Throughout the spring, students not only learned to care for their plants but also took part in tending the school's landscape!



### ECLIPSE

The solar eclipse provided boundless inspiration for the Bulldogs! Art students recreated eclipse-themed artwork by Alma Thomas, while STEM students produced a video guide on crafting a pinhole eclipse viewer. Thanks to a generous donation from the Poland Lions Club, every student received solar eclipse glasses to safely enjoy the event.



This year, PSHS Athletic HYPE VIDEOS received major upgrades, featuring innovative 360-degree and underwater shots. The PSHS Swim & Dive video has garnered over 8,000 views on YouTube, Impressively, most of the creative ideas for these shots were made by PSHS students themselves!




This football season, PSHS Marching Band seniors were featured on "Mic'd Up," a popular series that captures the excitement of the marching band. Through this series, viewers got an up-close look at the fun that goes on when you're part of Poland's music program.




### PODCAST

During down time, Bulldogs voiced their thoughts in the entertaining "BARK!" and "Paw-Pup Podcast" series. In over 15 videos, students shared why they love their teachers, expressed gratitude for family/friends, and discussed their favorite aspects of school.



# ADVANCEMENTS

## LEADING THE PACK FORWARD



### TRANSPORTATION

In the 2024-2025 school year, Poland Local Schools will be introducing Stopfinder, the comprehensive parent engagement app, to all families. This innovative tool provides real-time updates on bus locations and schedules directly to smartphones, enhancing communication through push notifications. Information about how to access and use Stopfinder will be provided to parents upon implementation.



### SECURITY

Through Ohio's K-12 School Safety Grant Program, the district has enhanced security measures by installing additional door locks and cameras, as well as door alarms at McKinley. This year, the safety of students and staff was further supported by the presence of four School Resource Officers (SROs), with two stationed at each building. Thank you to Poland Village and Poland Township Police for their contribution to school safety.



### CURRICULUM

Curriculum focus continues to prioritize early educational development, especially among Poland's youngest Bulldogs. This year, the district will collaborate with United Way's 'Success by Six' program, which supports students entering kindergarten. Additionally, the district recieved a State Support Team Grant that will provide essential curriculum materials to Dobbins Early Learning Center.



### TECHNOLOGY

Through the E-Rate program, the district will save 50% on the cost of upgrading the WiFi across all K-12 school buildings. This significant investment will support the increasing number of devices and the 1-to-1 Chromebook network, ensuring robust and reliable internet access for every student.



### FOOD SERVICES

The Food Services department has successfully passed an audit with exemplary results, demonstrating compliance and efficiency. Additionally, the department launched healthy snack initiatives to enhance nutritional offerings. Thank you to the dedicated team of workers who have served over 85,000 meals this year.



### OPERATIONS

This summer, the district will be undertaking projects to enhance facilities. These improvements include installing ADA-compliant ramps at the stadium, resurfacing PSHS & Dobbins parking lots, and repurposing select K-6 existing rooms into classrooms for class size reduction. The operations department webpage will be upgraded with more information.

# DOBBINS EARLY LEARNING CENTER

## THE PRESCHOOL PUPS

Poland Local School District hosts a preschool at the 3030 Dobbins Road facility. The Dobbins Early Learning Center hosts over 60 students in three preschool classes:

- Monday-Friday (Transitional Kindergarten) 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Monday + Wednesday + Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.



The young pups at Dobbins Early Learning Center had a vibrant year filled with numerous activities. They celebrated their 50th day of school, performed experiments on science day, showcased their talents in a Christmas concert, and welcomed parents to special concerts and snack times for Mother's and Father's Day. Their most notable achievement was raising $590 through the Trike-A-Thon that supported St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.











# ACCOUNTING

## CHECK OUT POLAND'S CHECKBOOK

In May 2024, CFO/Treasurer Janet Muntean presented the Five-Year Forecast May Update to the Board of Education. The five-year forecast serves as a tool to communicate and assess the financial health of a school district. Local school districts are required to submit five-year forecasts twice annually to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Each five-year forecast contains two components: 1) historical and projected financial data and 2) notes to explain any significant changes or "assumptions" a district used to develop the reported financial projections.

**You can watch the full presentation at www.polandbulldogs.com/treasurer.**

### LEARN MORE:

The Treasurer's Department webpage is a comprehensive resource, regularly updated with learning materials, links, and documents designed to enhance your understanding of school finance.

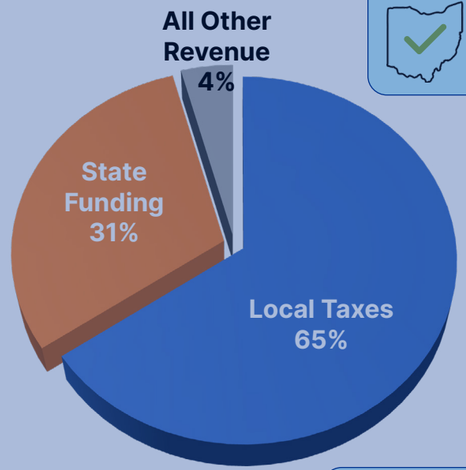
**polandbulldogs.com/treasurer**




### AUDIT AWARD

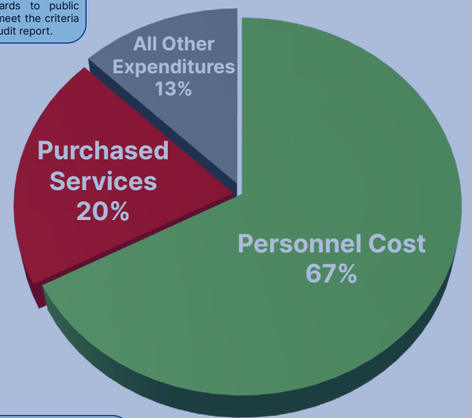
In May 2024, Poland Local School District received an **Auditor of State Award**. The Auditor of State's office presents awards to public entities that meet the criteria of a "clean" audit report.

## REVENUE




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.010 | General Property Tax | 65% |
| 1.020 | Public Utility | |
| 1.035 | Unrestricted State Aid | 31% |
| 1.040 | Restricted State Aid | |
| 1.050 | State Share Local Tax | |
| 1.060 | Other Operating | 4% |
| 2.060 | All Other Sources | |

## EXPENDITURES




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3.010 | Personnel | 67% |
| 3.020 | Benefits | |
| 3.030 | Purchased Services | 20% |
| 3.040 | Supplies/Materials | |
| 3.050 | Capital Outlay | |
| 4.055 | Principal $ | 13% |
| 4.060 | Interest $ | |
| 4.30 | Other Objects | |
| 5.010 | Transfers-Out | |

### GLOSSARY

Visit our website to explore a glossary of school finance terms, each accompanied by "Paw Notes" — concise snippets of information directly related to our district.

General Fund (Fund 001)

State and local funds which are available to a school district for any purpose provided it is disbursed or transferred in accordance with Ohio law.

Poland utilizes Fund 001 for district operations. All general fund revenue and expenditure categories can be found on the five-year forecast.

**polandbulldogs.com/treasurer/glossary**

## SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT*

| | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beginning Cash Balance | $7,975,985 | *$9,520,072* | *$9,907,509* | *$8,144,879* | *$8,894,435* |
| + Revenue | $24,150,565 | *$25,537,060* | *$25,626,553* | *$25,487,606* | *$24,169,769* |
| + Renewal Levies | $0 | *$0* | *$0* | *$691,032* | *$2,452,030* |
| + New Levies | $0 | *$0* | *$0* | *$0* | *$0* |
| - Expenditures | $22,606,478 | *$25,149,623* | *$27,389,183* | *$25,429,082* | *$26,371,723* |
| **= Revenue Surplus or Deficit** | **$1,544,087** | ***$387,437*** | ***-$1,762,630*** | ***$749,556*** | ***$250,076*** |
| Ending Cash Balance with Levies | $9,520,072 | *$9,907,509* | *$8,144,879* | *$8,894,435* | *$9,144,511* |
| Revenue Surplus or Deficit without Levies | $1,544,087 | *$387,437* | *-$1,762,630* | *$58,524* | *-$2,201,954* |
| Ending Cash Balance without Levies | $9,520,072 | *$9,907,509* | *$8,144,879* | *$8,203,403* | *$6,001,449* |

***Forecasted as of 05/15/2024.**



POLAND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2024-2025 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

| | |
|---|---|
| Teacher In-Service Days | August 19-28, 2024 |
| Labor Day - **No Classes** | September 2, 2024 |
| First Day of Classes | September 3, 2024 |
| Parent Teacher Conferences - **No Classes** | October 10, 2024 |
| NEOEA Day - **No Classes** | October 11, 2024 |
| End of First Quarter | November 1, 2024 |
| Thanksgiving Recess - **No Classes** | November 27-29, 2024 |
| Winter Recess - **No Classes** | December 23, 2024 - January 2, 2025 |
| Teacher In-Service Day - **No Classes** | January 3, 2025 |
| End of Second Quarter / First Semester | January 17, 2025 |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Day - **No Classes** | January 20, 2025 |
| Parent Teacher Conferences - **Classes In Session** | February 13, 2025 |
| Presidents' Day Weekend - **No Classes** | February 14 & 17, 2025 |
| Teacher In-Service Day - **No Classes** | March 14, 2025 |
| End of Third Quarter | March 21, 2025 |
| Spring Recess - **No Classes** | April 18-25, 2025 |
| Memorial Day - **No Classes** | May 26, 2025 |
| Class of 2025 Commencement | May 31, 2025 |
| Last Day of Classes - End of Fourth Quarter / Second Semester | June 3, 2025 |
| Teacher In-Service Day | June 4, 2025 |

## SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

**Poland Seminary High School**
3199 Dobbins Road
Poland, OH 44514
(330) 757 - 7018

Principal: Kevin Snyder
kjsnyder@polandschools.org

Assistant Principal: Michael Daley
mdaley@polandschools.org

**Poland Middle School**
47 College Street
Poland, OH 44514
(330) 757 - 7003

Principal: David Purins
dpurins@polandschools.org

**McKinley Elementary School**
7 Elm Street
Poland, OH 44514
(330) 757 - 7014

Principal: Matthew Beard
mbeard@polandschools.org

**Dobbins Early Learning Center**
3030 Dobbins Road
Poland, OH 44514
(330) 757 - 0851

Director: Miranda Foster
mefoster@polandschools.org

Poland Local Schools
3030 Dobbins Road
Poland, OH 44514



**Ms. Kendra Gura ('95)**
Distinguished Teacher of the Year



**Mr. John Allsopp ('91)**
Distinguished Alumnus of the Year



**Mr. Mike Burns ('76)**
Distinguished Staff of the Year

## POLAND SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Poland Schools Foundation named Ms. Kendra Gura, McKinley Elementary teacher, as the Distinguished Teacher of the Year. Mr. Mike Burns, Bus Driver, was named Distinguished Staff Member of the Year. Mr. John Allsopp was the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. They were recognized at the annual Recognition Banquet in March.

The Poland Schools Foundation awarded over $2,500 in mini-grants to teachers at Poland Local Schools this year. Grants supported teachers with interactive materials to improve the learning experience.

You can learn more about the Poland Schools Foundation at:
**POLANDSCHOOLSFOUNDATION.COM**

# THE BEST PART

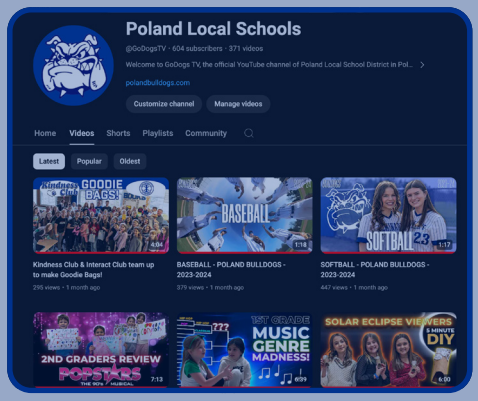
You've reached the end! The Bulldog Bulletin is not over... It is just beginning! While our bulletin brings you the stories of the year, our YouTube channel brings these stories to life with over 100 videos showcasing our Bulldogs in action. Dive into the exciting world of Poland academics, arts, athletics, and activities!

Visit
**polandbulldogs.com/bulldog-bulletin**

to enjoy an interactive version, containing **"DOG BONES"**



Go digging for dog bones! When you find one, click on it to watch the video!




# MR. NICO'S NOTES

Thank you to over 1,800 Bulldogs for barking loud and proud this year. You didn't eat my homework... You helped me! **Good dogs.**

Thank you to our exceptionally talented teachers, dedicated staff, administrators, and the broader Poland community. This publication is dedicated to each of you and your remarkable contributions to advancing education in Poland, Ohio.



## BULLDOGS, GO FETCH!

Can you sniff out the 15 paw prints I hid in this book?

Check your answers at
polandbulldogs.com/bulldog-bulletin