

# BUCKEYE BULLETIN

Buckeye Local Schools: 3044 Columbia Road • Medina, OH 44256 • 330.722.8257

[buckeyeschools.org](http://buckeyeschools.org)   



Members of the Class of 2024 were celebrated at the commencement ceremony on May 17th. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Buckeye Community,

I am honored to be a part of the Buckeye Local School District and this community that truly embodies the spirit of "Believe, Empower, Achieve." In my short time here, I have been inspired by the dedication and passion of our students, staff and families. This newsletter highlights some extraordinary ways we are living out our mission to build a brighter future together.

At Buckeye, believing in our students' potential is at the heart of everything we do. Recently, our students and staff were recognized for their exceptional leadership and artistic talents at the Medina County Share Breakfast. Their efforts in promoting mental health awareness are a testament to our belief in nurturing not just academic success but the holistic well-being of every student.

Empowerment is the foundation of our district. On May 7th, Buckeye Primary School showcased this by organizing a school-wide clap out for the Special Olympics participants. The sense of family and support that permeates throughout our schools is truly remarkable. Through daily acts of encouragement, we empower our students to pursue their passions and make meaningful contributions to our community.

Achievement is the culmination of our belief and empowerment efforts.

On May 17th, we celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2024. This group of 201 outstanding students included many who graduated with honors. Their accomplishments are a proud reflection of their hard work and the supportive environment fostered by our dedicated educators and staff.

As we continue to build our future together, I am excited to announce the approval of the Campus Facilities Master Plan, created by the Campus and Facility Task Force. This plan addresses our district's essential facility needs, benefiting our students, staff and the community. Phase One, funded by the current general fund cash, a COPS loan, and the successful passage of a bond issue on November 5, 2024, aims to construct a new high school featuring state-of-the-art technology and modern learning environments.

The journey ahead is filled with promise and potential. Together, we will continue to believe in our students, empower them to reach new heights and celebrate their achievements. Thank you for your support and for welcoming me into this exceptional community.

I look forward to working alongside you as we strive to create a vibrant and dynamic future for Buckeye Local Schools.

Warm regards,  
*Jeffrey M. Stanton*  
 Jeffrey M. Stanton, Superintendent

# DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

## Welcome, New Staff!

The Buckeye Local Schools Board of Education is pleased to announce the hiring of two new administrative team members, approved during its June 11 meeting. Mike Williston has been appointed as the new Buckeye Intermediate School Principal, while Holly Phillips will serve as Assistant Principal at the Intermediate and Junior High Schools.

In addition to Mr. Williston and Ms. Phillips' appointments, the Board also approved the contracts of several more new staff members, including Katelynn Reale (Grade 2), Danielle Stevens (High School Math), Amber Allen (Grade 4 Math), and Taelir Beery (Junior High/High School Spanish). These contracts will take effect on August 19, 2024.



Left to right: Mike Williston, Katelynn Reale, Danielle Stevens, Amber Allen, Taelir Beery, Holly Phillips

## Important Dates

### AUGUST 2024

- 19 **Teacher Work Day - No School**
- 20 **Teacher/Classified Staff Work Day - No School**  
**Open House**
- 21 **Teacher/Classified Staff Work Day - No School**
- 22 **First Day of School for Students**
- 26 **First Day of Preschool**  
**First Day of Kindergarten (Last Name A-L)**
- 27 **First Day of Kindergarten (Last Name M-Z)**
- 28 **Kindergarten (All Students)**

## Buckeye Local School District Empowers Staff with Transformative Learning From Local Manufacturers

On Monday, April 9, 2024, over 40 Buckeye Local Schools staff members visited local manufacturing companies as part of a district-wide professional development event. This half-day endeavor, designed to connect Buckeye Local Schools with local businesses, helped deepen the staff's understanding of career opportunities available to students.

Five prominent manufacturing companies, Northlake Steel, Welsch Profile/North America, Tailor Welded Blanks (TWB), 3D Metals, and Fusherashi International Technologies (F.I.T.), all located throughout Valley City, participated. Through these visits, educators gained direct exposure to the industrial potential within the district's boundaries. Superintendent Jeffery Stanton led this initiative and actively participated in the tours, emphasizing the connection between classroom learning and real-world skill application.

These efforts reinforce Buckeye Local Schools' commitment to its strategic goals of providing continuing professional development opportunities for staff and promoting multiple pathways for college, career and life readiness for students.

## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS - *continued*

### Buckeye Primary School Honored with Purple Star Designation

Buckeye Primary School proudly announces its designation as a Purple Star School by the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce, joining the esteemed Purple Star Class of 2024. This recognition is a testament to the dedication of staff, students and families to supporting our students and ensuring they have the resources and support they need to succeed.

After Buckeye High School received the Purple Star designation in 2023, the district set a goal to have all schools qualify for the award. To earn this recognition, Buckeye Primary School met the criteria outlined by Ohio's Purple Star Advisory Board. This includes appointing a dedicated staff member to ensure the harmonious integration of military students and families and implementing tailored programs to meet each student's unique needs. Additional information about the Purple Star Designation is available online through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce website.



Supporting Military Families

### Facilities Update

At the June 11 Board of Education meeting, the Buckeye Local Schools Board of Education approved the Resolution of Necessity for a bond issue, marking a significant step forward in the district's efforts to improve its facilities. This bond issue will appear on the November 5, 2024, ballot and will seek \$59,000,000 to support Phase 1 of the Campus Facilities Master Plan, approved at the May 14 meeting.

The primary purpose of the bond issue is to fund the construction of a new high school located at the corner of Wolf and Columbia Roads on the site of the current Alumni Stadium and ball field. This new building will feature a 600-seat auditorium, a 1,200-seat gymnasium, state-of-the-art technology infrastructure, and the latest safety and security systems. The design, which includes provisions for a future junior high school addition, is student-centered, aiming to foster an exceptional and innovative learning environment.

Phase 1 also includes abatement and demolition of the existing junior high school, improvements to overall campus traffic flow and the relocation of the Alumni Stadium to include a new multi-use sports complex. Additionally, necessary facility upgrades will be made to the existing high school to temporarily accommodate junior high students until a new junior high school can be constructed.

The budget for Phase 1 is \$77,000,000, which will be funded through a combination of sources: \$8,000,000 from the current General Fund cash, a \$10,000,000 Certificate of Participation loan, and the \$59,000,000 bond issue.

The next step in this process is the Board of Education's vote on the Resolution to Proceed with the bond issue, scheduled for the July 9 meeting.

Buckeye Local Schools encourages all community members to stay informed as the district moves forward with these initiatives.

For information about the facilities planning efforts, visit [www.buckeyeschools.org/facilities-planning](http://www.buckeyeschools.org/facilities-planning).



# DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS - *continued*

## Technology News

### Final Forms Family Update Needed

Be sure to update your student's Final Forms for the 24/25 School Year by July 15th. All transportation changes and updates must be received by July 15th to ensure your bus route is accurate.

### Clever Pause

Student access to Clever will be temporarily paused beginning August 5, 2024, and restored on August 19, 2024. During this period, students will not be able to log in to Clever to access apps and programs. This temporary pause is essential as we make necessary updates and changes for the upcoming school year.

If your child uses a Clever Badge to log in, the badge will be voided. This is an added security measure to protect student information from one school year to the next. If your child requires a badge to log in, their teacher will provide one. Parents of those students can log in to Clever after August 19th once they receive a badge.

### Messages XR Conversion

Buckeye Local School District is transitioning to a new communication system called Messages XR. Messages XR is an advanced platform designed to streamline and enhance communication between the school district and our families. This system offers improved features such as real-time updates, instant notifications and a user-friendly interface to keep you better informed about your child's education.

We are currently converting from our existing system to Messages XR. During this transition, we aim to ensure a smooth experience for everyone. We will soon share more details and instructions on how to use Messages XR.

## You Made Your Mark

Congratulations to our You Made Your Mark Award Winners, Christene Thomas and Greg King!

## Access Your Student's Ohio State Test Results

1. Login to ProgressBook Parent Access
  2. Select Assessment Scores
  3. All Student Assessment Scores will Populate
- Watch for printed student reports in the fall.*



Christene Thomas - Classified Winner



Greg King - Certified Winner

# ELEMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS

## Buckeye Primary Pride

On May 7th, students at Buckeye Primary School supported the Special Olympics with a school-wide clap out before the event. Every student and staff member in the building lined the hallway as Special Olympians paraded throughout the school and out to their bus. Many students showed their support with handmade signs sporting positive messages or waving American flags.

Deputy McCourt was on hand to provide a police escort as the students rode the bus to this amazing event. The Special Olympics is one of the most anticipated athletic events of the school year. The sense of family here at Buckeye Primary School and the daily occurrence of school-wide support among students and staff is truly an atmosphere to be treasured.

Over 500 participants attended the event at Cloverleaf High School. Buckeye students were led into the stadium by Elementary Physical Education Teacher Amy Bryk. Participants ran races and participated in field events. This is one of the greatest athletic events of the year!



## Career Week

Buckeye Primary successfully hosted its annual career week, May 6-10th. The week was filled with many career-centered activities, guest speakers and a special commercial. This year, we hosted over 20 speakers who came to discuss their occupations.

Our students heard from first responders, nurses, construction workers and small business owners, a surgeon, a golf professional, a flight attendant and many others. We are very grateful to the Buckeye community for supporting our youngest students during Career Week, and we thank all those who participated.

## ELEMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS - *continued*



### Valley City Frog Jump Logo Design Contest

The Valley City Community Group invited Buckeye students to design the logo for the 63rd annual Valley City Frog Jump, scheduled for July 21, 2024. Thirteen students from Mrs. Abraham's classes participated, and sixth-grader Adeline Burchfield's design was chosen to represent the festival.

The logo will be featured in the event's advertising and apparel. Adeline will receive an introduction at the Frog Jump opening and a T-shirt with her design. Dave and Barb Smallwood treated the participating students to pizza and cookies as a reward. Ava Stachewicz, Cam Tennant, Marissa Uehlein, Samson Gray, Emma Turcek, Tatum Gunther, Rosalia Ruiz, Ganen Losh, Summer McFadian, Donata Wilks, Kylie Weldon and Jada Morey also participated in the contest. Thank you, Valley City Community Group, for providing our students with this opportunity to foster creativity and involvement.



### First-Grade Artists Selected for a Medina County Literary Magazine

*Inkspot* is a literary magazine published by the Educational Service Center of Medina. *Inkspot* includes works of art and writings from Medina County public school district students. Many first-grade drawings were submitted, and five were selected for *Inkspot's* 2023-2024 edition. Congratulations to Wesley Haney, Forrest Myers, Lydia Vrona, Aubree Peacey and Lilly Dole for having their artworks selected!

### Preschool Graduation

Students in the Little Bucks Preschool participated in "Ringing into Kindergarten" activities. These amazing little scholars will enter Kindergarten in the fall as the graduating class of 2037. We are excited to watch them grow as they continue their school journey.



*Congratulations, Little Bucks!*

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## JUNIOR HIGH HIGHLIGHTS

### Ms. Fusco's Science Class Hatches Chicks: A Hands-On Lesson in Biology

Ms. Fusco's science class observed the chick-hatching process, offering a hands-on experience into embryonic development inside eggs. Over the course of several weeks, students watched the fascinating stages of embryonic development, culminating in the eagerly awaited hatching where they saw the chicks break free from their eggs. This project guided by Ms. Fusco not only deepened students' understanding of biology but also instilled lessons on nurturing life and responsibility. The chicks will continue to grow at home with a Buckeye Junior High family.



### 8th-Grade Washington D.C. Trip

The 8th-grade class recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to learn about our country's rich history and cultural significance. Highlights included visits to iconic monuments like the Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Exploring Mount Vernon provided a glimpse into President George Washington's life, while Arlington National Cemetery's solemnity underscored the sacrifices of service members. This educational trip, left a lasting impact on the students, fostering a deeper appreciation for American history and values.



# JUNIOR HIGH HIGHLIGHTS - *continued*



## Girl Scouts Earn Silver Award by Revitalizing Junior High Mural

Girl Scout Troop #91132, led by soon-to-be former 8th graders Audrey Myer, Brianna Foster and Ella Matyac, has taken on an ambitious and impactful project to earn the prestigious Silver Award.

This award is granted to Girl Scouts who implement positive changes in their community, and these dedicated Buckeye students have chosen to update the mural on the Junior High wall outside the media center. By earning the Silver Award, Audrey, Brianna, and Ella are demonstrating exceptional leadership, creativity and dedication.

Mural designed by Girl Scout Troop #91132.

## Celebrating Leadership and Artistic Talent at Medina County Share Breakfast

The recent Medina County Share Breakfast celebrated exceptional leadership and local student artistic talent to emphasize awareness. Buckeye Local Schools Prevention Coordinators Bridgette Lempner and Gayle Telford were recognized for their vital work in creating a supportive environment while addressing critical issues like suicide prevention.

Junior High Student Bobbie Zarobell received a county award for her impactful poster on raising awareness for signs of suicide, showcasing the power of art in combating this important topic. Art Teacher Christie Raeke was instrumental in nurturing Bobbie's talent as she portrayed a need for positive change with mental health awareness.

Junior High Student Bobbie Zarobell's award-winning poster

**WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP, JUST REMEMBER THE REASON WHY YOU HELD ON FOR SO LONG.**

LIFE IS TOO PRECIOUS TO BE WASTED.

HELP YOUR LOVED ONES BEFORE ITS TOO LATE.

**WARNING SIGNS OF SUICIDE**

*Talking About...*

- \* Wanting to die.
- \* Great guilt or shame.
- \* Being a burden to others.

*Feeling...*

- \* Empty, hopeless, trapped, or having no reason to live.
- \* Extremely sad, more anxious, agitated, or full of rage.
- \* Unbearable emotional or physical pain

*Change in behavior, such as...*

- \* Making a plan or researching ways to die.
- \* Withdrawing from friends, saying goodbye, giving away important items, or making a will.
- \* Taking dangerous risks such as driving extremely fast.
- \* Displaying extreme mood swings.
- \* Eating or sleeping more or less.
- \* Using drugs or alcohol more often.

FOR HELP CALL - MEDINA COUNTY CRISIS LINE @ 330-725-9195 AVAILABLE 24X7 OR TEXT HOME TO 743741

Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of ages 15-24. 5,000 young people complete suicide in the U.S. each year. Each year, there are approximately 10 youth suicides for every 100,000 youth.

If these warning signs apply to you or someone you know, get help as soon as possible, particularly if the behavior is new or has increased recently.

# HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

## Night of Excellence

Buckeye High School's Night of Excellence was held on May 9th, 2024, at Grace Baptist Church in Brunswick. This well-attended event recognized Buckeye's Top Scholars. Because of their hard work and academic achievements, students received academic letters, athletic awards, military commitments, foreign exchange certificates, AP awards, honor cords, Presidential awards, local scholarships and the Trace Zoul Kind Student Award. We sincerely thank our community partners who participated in this event. We are incredibly proud of all our students who earned awards and scholarships this year.



## Class of 2024 Graduation

On May 17th, Buckeye High School celebrated the Class of 2024 Graduation. This year, 201 seniors received their diplomas from Buckeye Local Schools Board of Education members. From this distinguished class, ten students achieved Summa Cum Laude honors with a 4.4 GPA or above, 30 students achieved Magna Cum Laude honors with a 4.0-4.39 GPA, and 26 students achieved Cum Laude honors with a 3.7-3.99 GPA. We look forward to their continued success!



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## HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS - *continued*

### Celebrating the Legacy of Our Retiring Staff Members

Buckeye High School bids a fond farewell to two dedicated members of our educational family: math teacher and coach Howie Calame and support staff member Terri Geneaux. Both have devoted over 30 years to enriching our school and community, leaving a legacy of excellence and compassion.

Mr. Howie Calame, known for his energetic math instruction and inspiring coaching, has shaped the minds and hearts of countless students. His commitment to academic excellence and athletic prowess has fostered a culture of hard work and determination. From the classroom to the sports field, Mr. Calame's influence will be felt for generations.

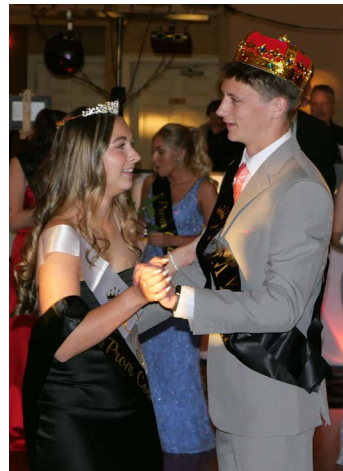
Terri Geneaux, a cornerstone of our support staff, has been instrumental in promoting a positive culture at Buckeye High School. Her dedication, attention to detail, and warm, welcoming presence made her a valuable member of our family. Terri's contributions have been integral to our school's success and sense of community, from managing administrative tasks to offering kind words to students and staff.

As we celebrate their retirements, we express our deepest gratitude for Mr. Calame's and Ms. Geneaux's years of service to the Buckeye Schools community.



### Buckeye High School Hosts 2024 Prom

Buckeye High School's 2024 Prom, held on May 10th at Weymouth Country Club, was one of the best in recent history. Three hundred seventy-five students arrived dressed to impress and enjoyed a night of dancing and fun. This year, Sarah Lowe and Tate McCourt were crowned Prom Queen and King. As the night came to a close, everyone was treated to a special light show as the Northern Lights were visible from the patio. Following the dance, students attended After Prom at the Medina Community Recreation Center. Thank you to the After Prom Parent Group who volunteered their time to provide a memorable evening full of games, swimming, and prizes!



### 2024-2025 Days to Watch

- Aug. 9 - Senior Yearbook Photos
- Aug. 12 - Senior Parking Pass Sales
- Aug. 13 & 16 - All Student Parking Pass Sales
- Aug. 13 - Vaccine Clinic
- Aug. 14 - Freshman Orientation
- Aug. 14 & 15 - 10/11/12 Schedule Distribution
- Aug. 22 - Classes Resume
- Sept. 21 - Homecoming Dance

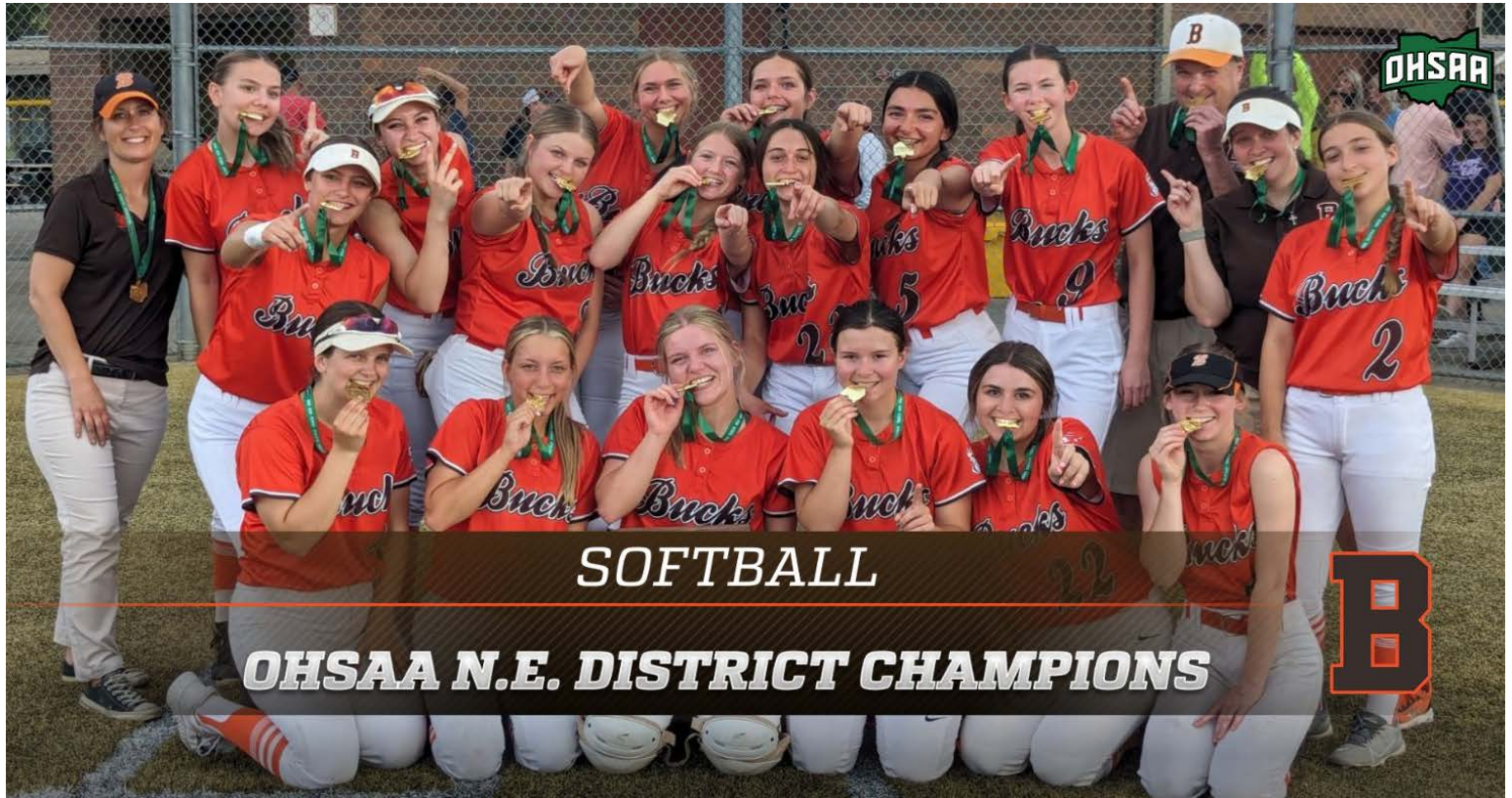
# ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

## North Gateway Tire Co. May Athlete of the Month

Congratulations to Buckeye's own Lilly Young on winning the North Gateway Tire Company May Athlete of the Month Award! Lilly will receive a gift card and winner's certificate courtesy of North Gateway Tire Co. and will be featured on all participating schools' athletic websites.



## Softball Lady Bucks Make History with First District Championship Win



The Buckeye Varsity Girls Softball Team clinched their first-ever district championship in a historic game against the Northwest Varsity Indians, securing a 7-2 victory. This landmark win was powered by a stellar pitching performance from Lilly Young, who struck out 11 batters and allowed only five hits and two runs over six and two-thirds innings with no walks.

This victory marks a significant milestone for the Lady Bucks as they celebrate their first district championship in the school's history. The team's dynamic performance and Lilly Young's dominant pitching were key factors in their historic win.

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# ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS - *continued*

## Track and Field Athletes Excel at the GLC Conference Meet

Congratulations to all the athletes who competed at the GLC Conference Meet.

### Pole Vault

1st Place: **Ellen Steppenbacker**

2nd Place: **Leah Bengough**

### 200m

1st Place: **Logan Lowe**

### 4x400

1st Place: **Tate McCourt, Brady Salazar, Isaac Clady, Logan Lowe**

### Discus

1st Place: **Alyssa Bengough**



## Coach Michael Wolf Celebrates 300th Win

In a remarkable display of leadership, perseverance, and strategic prowess, Coach Michael Wolf achieved a significant milestone in his coaching career as he celebrated his 300th win as baseball manager. The milestone victory came in a thrilling 4-2 win over Waynedale, marking a momentous occasion not only for Coach Wolf but also for the entire team and their dedicated supporters.

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

Following the recent resignation of Treasurer Jenniffer Knapp, Buckeye Local School Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Donnelly as the district's new treasurer, effective August 1, 2024. The Board approved Mr. Donnelly's hire at a special meeting held on April 26, 2024.

Donnelly's professional journey includes serving as Treasurer/CFO at Wellington Exempted Village School District in Wellington, Ohio, since July 2020. With over 22 years of dedicated service in public education administration, Donnelly has demonstrated proficiency in financial management and business operations.

His qualifications, including a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Akron and certifications such as the Ohio Treasurer License and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation, position him as a capable leader for Buckeye Local Schools Treasurer's Department.

Upon assuming the role of treasurer at Buckeye Local Schools, Mark Donnelly aims to leverage his strong communication and organizational skills, coupled with a goal-oriented philosophy to continue the district's tradition of excellence in financial stewardship.

For more information about Buckeye Local Schools finances, please visit the treasurer's department webpage at [www.buckeyeschools.org/departments/treasurers-department](http://www.buckeyeschools.org/departments/treasurers-department)



Treasurer Mark Donnelly with Buckeye Board Members

## TRANSPORTATION NEWS

### Bus Road-e-o

On April 20, 2024, the North Region Bus Road-E-O was held at Firelands High School in Lorain. Buckeye Local Schools had four drivers participate. The theme was "Strike Up the Band". Ashley Long placed 6th in the Northern Region and advanced to the state competition on May 4th. The North Region took 1st place at the state competition in Hilliard, Ohio, where they performed great as a team. Congratulations to all who participated. You represented Buckeye well, and we are so proud of you!



### Driver Appreciation Day

Bus Driver Appreciation Day was April 23, 2024, and we celebrated our drivers by having something special for them each day of the week. We appreciate our drivers and all they do for us each and every day!

**Have a great summer! We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall!**