



Dear Quaker Community,

We have had a great start to the 2024-2025 school year here in Quaker country! Our students (and staff) have had a smooth transition and are diving into their academics, extracurriculars and reconnecting with friends.

We have several exciting updates to share that have helped us kick the year off on the right foot. First, we launched a new website this summer. The new site is easy to navigate and better anticipates the needs of our visitors, placing everything you need to know about New Philadelphia Schools right at your fingertips. I encourage you to explore the new features and design at npschools.org.

Second, we introduced a new English Language Arts curriculum this school year. It incorporates principles of the science of reading, a comprehensive body of evidence explaining how students learn to read. It emphasizes key areas like phonics, word recognition, vocabulary and comprehension to ensure all students receive the support they need to become proficient readers. A student's ability to read is one of the top indicators of future success in the classroom.

Third, as many of you know, our Board of Education adopted a new strategic plan last year that will see us through 2025. Five goals encompass the plan, including:

1. Facilities, Finance and Transportation
2. Curriculum, Academic Achievement and Student Services
3. Culture and Climate
4. Communication and Technology
5. Business Operations and Human Resources

I'm happy to report that we are ahead of schedule in meeting our objectives so that we can further our mission of providing all students the opportunity to achieve their highest potential.

Fourth, as part of the facilities goal in our strategic plan, our Quaker Spirit Facilities Committee presented a plan to the Board last spring that addresses our facility challenges and provides the best educational environment for future generations of students. This has led us to the Nov. 5 ballot with a combined bond and permanent improvement levy. If passed, homeowners will see a tax increase of \$20.17 per month per \$100,000 of home value. Learn more in the message from our Treasurer on page 2, on the back of this newsletter, or at our website, npschools.org.

Last, I want to express my pride and gratitude for the students, staff, parents, and community members of New Philadelphia. I'm reminded at the start of every school year how thankful I am to be part of this community, and there is no place I'd rather be than New Philadelphia City Schools. I am also proud to share our district improvement on the recently released state report cards. Learn more in the article to the right.

Sincerely,
Amy Wentworth
Superintendent

Gap Closing



Achievement



District Progress Shines in State Report Card

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce recently released its annual State Report Cards, rating districts across the state on a 1-5 star scale, with 5 stars being the highest. These ratings measure Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Early Literacy, and Graduation to reflect how well districts are preparing students for the future.

We are excited to share that our district's overall rating has improved from 3 stars to 3.5 stars—a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our staff and students. We are particularly proud of our gains in two key areas. With 4 stars in Achievement, we are exceeding state standards in academic success. Additionally, our 5-star rating in Gap Closing shows that we are significantly exceeding expectations in closing educational gaps, ensuring equity for all students.

While we celebrate this progress, we know there is more work to be done. Our goal is to provide all students with the opportunity to achieve their highest potential, and we remain committed to improving in every area to make that vision a reality.



Student Puts Talent to Good Use



New Philadelphia High School junior Sage Rogovin spent hours last summer painting a beautiful rainforest mural in Mrs. Bostic's Spanish classroom. Thanks for sharing your talent, Sage!

Local Stations Give Back to Quaker Students

Thank you to Telemundo TV and 105.9 The Rock Dog radio station, which provided school supplies and backpacks to 14 Welty Middle School and West Elementary students!





Update from the Treasurer

The environment in which students learn can greatly impact their future success. After months of gathering our community's feedback on the future of New Philadelphia's schools, our Quaker Spirit Facilities Committee presented a plan to the Board of Education aimed at reducing the number of building transitions for students and modernizing our facilities.

The district has secured a future credit from the state's Classroom Facilities Assistance Program to help cover the cost of proposed new buildings. However, we must rely on local resources in the interim. The district is therefore on the Nov. 5 ballot with a

BOND: The bond issue is for 5.9 mills and would generate \$72 million for the construction of a new PK-6 building at the existing South Elementary campus. These dollars would also supplement state funding for phase two of our facilities plan for a new middle/high school. Please note that bond funding can only be used for capital projects like new construction, renovations or upgrades.

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY: The permanent improvement levy is for 1.0 mill. This would bring in about \$627,000 a year for maintaining and improving district buildings. To receive state funding for a project such as ours, districts must pass a minimum 0.5 mill permanent improvement levy along with a bond issue. This required levy ensures districts have a future funding stream to maintain new or renovated facilities. We have learned from other districts that 0.5 mills are not enough to cover necessary maintenance, however, so are opting for a 1.0 mill levy.

IMPACT TO RESIDENTS: If passed, homeowners will see a tax increase of \$20.17 per month per \$100,000 of home value.

NEW BUILDING OVERVIEW

PK-6

A new PK-6 building would bring all PK-6 students onto a single campus and eliminate current issues created by having buildings organized by grade level.

The new building would:

- *Improve accessibility for School Resource Officers*
- *Reduce administrative and transportation costs*
- *Prevent PK-6 siblings from being spread across multiple buildings*
- *Eliminate students having to adjust to a new building every 1-2 years*

Additionally, students would not be displaced during construction.

Middle/High School

The exact location of the new middle and high school has not yet been determined. Our community's input will be crucial to helping us make this decision. Construction of this facility would be funded by the Nov. 5 bond issue and state credits.

For more information about the Facility Master Planning project, visit npschools.org.

Julie Erwin, CPA
Treasurer



English Language Staff Plays Important Role at York Elementary

Ms. Fanny Rinehart Garcia, an English language paraprofessional at York Elementary, plays a crucial role in supporting English learners. As the building's translator, she ensures families receive vital information about their child's education. She works with students in small groups, teaching vocabulary and literacy skills, and administers the Ohio English Language Proficiency Screener. Additionally, she collaborates with teachers, providing strategies to meet the needs of English learners and integrating lessons that reflect students' interests and backgrounds.

Quaker PRIDE Spreading

South Elementary is continuing to introduce the meaning of Quaker PRIDE to this year's students. Teachers reviewed each letter (P=Pride, R=Responsibility, I=Inquisitive, D=Determined, E=Engaged) and discussed ways students can display these qualities during learning tasks.

Starting Sept. 6, classrooms spent five weeks focusing on the letter P and doing activities that highlight how students can take pride in their work.



Students Learn Art of Mentorship and Philanthropy

West Elementary's preschool and gifted fourth grade classroom have been pairing up once a week for some mentoring! Fourth graders read to their younger counterparts, help with learning skills, and make lasting friendships.

Also, Mrs. VanArsdalen earned a grant that allows the students to make treats for and visit the Humane Society where they read to the resident animals. A huge thank you to Frantz Grinding, Ferris Chevrolet and Wendy's for making this project possible!



2024-2025 PBIS Efforts Kick Off

Our elementary schools are excited to build on their Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) efforts this school year! Positive behavior is linked to better attendance and academic achievement.

Initiatives for this year include passing out Quaker Pride tickets to students at York Elementary who are following the rules. Tickets can be exchanged for prizes from the school's Treasure Chest. Approximately 100 students will also be recognized as a Student of the Month. They will appear on the York Wall of Fame for their effort, hard work and accomplishments.

At East Elementary, students will have the opportunity to earn time in the Reward Room by being named Student of the Month or having their Pride ticket drawn. The Reward Room features arcade games, board games, basketball hoops, a Nintendo Switch, bumper cars, and more!

At Central Elementary, students are gearing up for a great school year by learning the school-wide expectations of Respectful, Responsible and Safe. When students meet expectations, they receive a Quaker ticket. Each Friday, 10-15 names are drawn and students get to choose a prize from the principal.



Weight Training Benefits Students' Mental and Physical Health

New Philadelphia High School turned an extra classroom into a strength and conditioning room for high school students over the summer. Now, the school offers three periods of weight training with the goal to increase it further next year. This offering benefits students' mental and physical health. Thank you to the many people who helped make the additional weight room a possibility!



Playground Addition a Hit

Students at West Elementary are especially active this year during recess thanks to a new addition: 9 Square! Stay tuned for pickleball, coming later this year as well.



Science Collab Lab

Our fifth grade science teaching team at Central Elementary recently took advantage of our new flex space to do a fun lab activity. Students from each class walked through the space identifying a variety of tools used in science.



Preschoolers Combine Learning With Play

Our early learners enjoy Center Time each day where they participate in art, sensory activities, housekeeping, writing, and playing with blocks and manipulatives. These tasks foster important academic, fine motor and social skills.

Community Partnership Leads to Soccer Complex Improvements

Thanks to the efforts of Kris Kreinbihl, the New Philadelphia High School soccer facility at Southside Community Park has new:

- Fencing
- Player dugouts
- Bleachers
- Parking with handicapped accessibility
- Press box and ticket booth

The city of New Philadelphia, New Philadelphia Park Board, New Philadelphia Youth Soccer Association, New Philadelphia High School Athletic Department, and corporate and private donors came together to raise \$256,000 for the project. This is a great example of what we can achieve for our students and community when we work together!



Superintendent Named President-Elect to Top Education Organization

Congratulations to Superintendent Amy Wentworth on being installed as President-Elect for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA)! The ceremony took place at Mayfield City High School. We're proud to have such strong district leadership!



Book Vending Machine Motivating Students



Last spring, our third grade class presidents at South Elementary wrote letters to local businesses asking for donations for a book machine. Their hard work has come to fruition!

The book machine was installed over the summer and is already being put to good use. Students earn a token for the machine each time they attain 10 Accelerated Reader points. This will be a great motivator for our students to complete their nightly reading logs so they are ready to take Accelerated Reader tests at school.

A huge thank you to Frantz Grinding, Ferris Chevrolet and Wendy's for making this project possible!



www.npschools.org

New Philadelphia City Schools is on the November 5 ballot for a combined bond and permanent improvement levy

Bond Issue is for 5.9 mills

Would generate \$72 million for construction of new PK-6 building at existing South Elementary campus

The bond issue funding would also supplement the state funding for phase 2 of the district facilities plan addressing the middle/high school

Permanent Improvement Levy is for 1.0 mill

Would generate about \$627,000 annually to maintain and improve district buildings

The state requires the district to collect at least a 0.5 mill PI levy to receive state funding for this project. NPCS has opted for a 1.0 mill PI levy to cover maintenance.

If the ballot issue passes, homeowners will see a tax increase of \$20.17 per month per \$100,000 of home value.

To learn more about the ballot issue, see the treasurer update on page 2.

Camp Muskingum Offers Hands-on Learning

Sixth grade students were excited about the opportunity to learn in the great outdoors in early September!

Students and adults alike participated in a three-day adventure at Camp Muskingum where they had the chance to be successful, responsible and an important part of the group. Nature's classroom also helps students better understand themselves, each other and their natural surroundings.



Beat the Heat: A Refreshing Treat

Whew! Our students handled some hot days at the start of this school year! At Central Elementary, a refreshing treat of popsicles helped them forge ahead in their learning despite the heat.

