



FALL 2024 ISSUE

Buckeye Brief

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER OF THE
BUCKEYE CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Update



Mark Robinson,
Superintendent

A spirited "hello" to our Buckeye Central Schools parents, students, and community. I am pleased to report that we experienced a wonderful beginning to the 2024-25 school year. Our academics are in full swing, and our classrooms are abuzz with our co-curricular programs and student activities. It's a gratifying feeling to look around and see the students growing academically and personally.

We know that it takes a community working together to experience the success we have achieved. Therefore, I'd first like to thank the staff members who work with the students daily. Their commitment to every student and our schools is second to none. And to our parents, thank you for your never-ending support of our schools. Most importantly, our deepest appreciation goes to the students we work with daily. They are the heart of our schools, and we are proud of their spirit, work ethic, and successes.

Recently, we received the results from our 2023-24 state report card. Overall, Buckeye Central scored 4.5 stars out of 5. This is a lofty achievement for the district and exemplifies the aforementioned commitment of our full team at Buckeye Central. Read more about this and our successful state testing results on page two.

In addition to our academic programs, we regularly review, maintain, and improve our facilities and grounds. We are proud of our excellent facilities and work diligently to assure proper upkeep and safety protocols. This summer, we improved lighting in and around the buildings, installed ramps at several of our entry areas, repaired and resurfaced asphalt on our drives and parking lots, repainted parking spots and travel lanes, and installed directional signage.

Additionally, annual maintenance tasks such as gym floor resurfacing, classroom and hallway cleaning and waxing, painting, and other routine upkeep were completed.



The facilities look fabulous and provide an excellent environment for student learning and success.

Another project undertaken this past summer was the installation of a new public address (PA) system. The new PA system brings upgraded and excellent communications throughout the building and grounds. Communication between all classrooms, offices, large group spaces, and around the exterior of the building is available at the touch of a button. New digital signage, which also ties into our safety and security systems, has been added to the buildings.



We are installing field turf on our varsity baseball and softball infields. Spring sports in Ohio are always plagued with cold, wet weather, which can create challenging conditions and many event cancellations. These new surfaces will be excellent for our student-athletes, providing a safe, modern playing environment.

The fieldhouse weight room is being upgraded with new rubberized flooring and weight equipment. It has also been thoroughly cleaned and painted. Read more on page four about how we are investing in safe, modern facilities and equipment that support the growth and development of our students.



One of our most important goals is to keep our school community informed. Please visit the district website at www.buckeye-central.org for regular and current information on our schools. We are also on Facebook, Instagram and X, and we have a Buckeye Central Schools app that can be found in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store for Android.

With BC Pride,
Mark A. Robinson,
Superintendent

Buckeye Central Earns Top Marks on State Report Card

Each year, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce releases State Report Cards, highlighting the achievements of school districts across the state and their efforts to prepare students for the future. Districts are given an overall rating of 1-5 stars, with five being the highest.

We are proud to announce that for the 2023-2024 school year, Buckeye Central achieved an overall 4.5 stars making us one of the highest-rated districts in Crawford County! In addition to our overall success, we are pleased to report that Buckeye Central met or exceeded state standards in all graded categories:

At the high school, our strong overall rating is mirrored by exceptional individual results on state assessments, including:

English Language Arts II

91.7% of our students met or exceeded the proficiency standard, showcasing their skills in reading, writing, and analysis.

Biology

83.6% achieved proficiency, reflecting their ability to engage with scientific concepts and think critically about the world around them.

Among the 13 surrounding high schools in our area, only two others earned 4.5 stars or higher, placing us among the top-performing high schools in the region.

Meanwhile, Buckeye Central Elementary students had the following outstanding results:

3rd grade

Scored highest of any district in the county in both Reading and Math

4th grade

Scored second highest in the county in English Language Arts and Math

These results reflect the collective efforts of our students, teachers, and families throughout the entire district. Our commitment to ongoing improvement remains strong, and we will continue working to ensure every student receives the support they need to succeed.

Achievement



Progress



Gap Closing



Graduation



Early Literacy



Full STEAM Ahead for Mrs. Kantzer's Sixth-Graders

Students in Mrs. Kantzer's sixth-grade STEAM class recently took on the challenge of designing and building a working water tower that could distribute water to two structures while incorporating a functional shut-off valve. As part of the engaging project, students learned about the design process, sketched their structures, and constructed them using provided materials. Once completed, they tested the structures for efficiency. This hands-on project allowed students to apply their knowledge in a practical way, giving them the opportunity to develop and test their hypotheses.





Bucks Block Provides a New Opportunity for Engagement at BCHS

At Buckeye Central High School, we are always striving to provide our students with the best opportunities for growth, both inside and outside the classroom. This year, we are excited to introduce a new initiative called Bucks Block, a dedicated 27-minute period each day where students from grades 9-12 come together in a shared space for a multitude of enriching activities.

The purpose of Bucks Block is to provide every student with access to unique learning experiences they may not otherwise have. This time is strategically designed to help our students by providing a variety of opportunities, including:

Academic Support and Enrichment

Targeted Math and English Language Arts supports are available, as well as preparation for the ACT. We also offer sessions for talented and gifted students to work on advanced projects and challenges.

Career and College Readiness

Students can attend college visits, as well as hear from military recruiters, business leaders, and industry professionals. These sessions provide valuable insights and help students make informed decisions about their futures.

Community Engagement

We have hosted numerous community speakers from local businesses and organizations. This exposure helps students understand the breadth of opportunities available to them after graduation.

Student Club Opportunities

A few student organization meetings are now scheduled during Bucks Block, and as a result there has been a dramatic increase in student participation. The Student Council has welcomed more members, and the Spanish Club recently had a record membership of 70 students—all because meetings can now occur during school hours. This is especially beneficial for students who do not drive or cannot arrange transportation for after-school activities.

Crew with a Cause Activities

Crew with a Cause activities, now held during Bucks Block, are designed to build camaraderie and school spirit through friendly competitions, community service projects, leadership exercises, and team-building activities. The best part is that every student can participate, as these activities occur during the school day.

Special Guests

By providing events at times where all of the students are available, we are able to bring students together for guest speakers. When Lt. Col. Ridel spoke about the significance of 9/11, he addressed all of the students in grades 7-12 at one time, which made his message even more powerful.

These opportunities underscore our commitment to maximizing every minute of the school day. They also foster an environment where every student, regardless of their circumstances, has access to enriching activities that promote both personal and academic growth. We plan to expand the range of activities available during Bucks Block to include more hands-on learning experiences, workshops, and collaborative projects.

We are excited to see how Bucks Block continues to evolve and make a positive impact on our school community. Stay tuned for more updates and new activities as we dare to be disruptive in our approach to education!

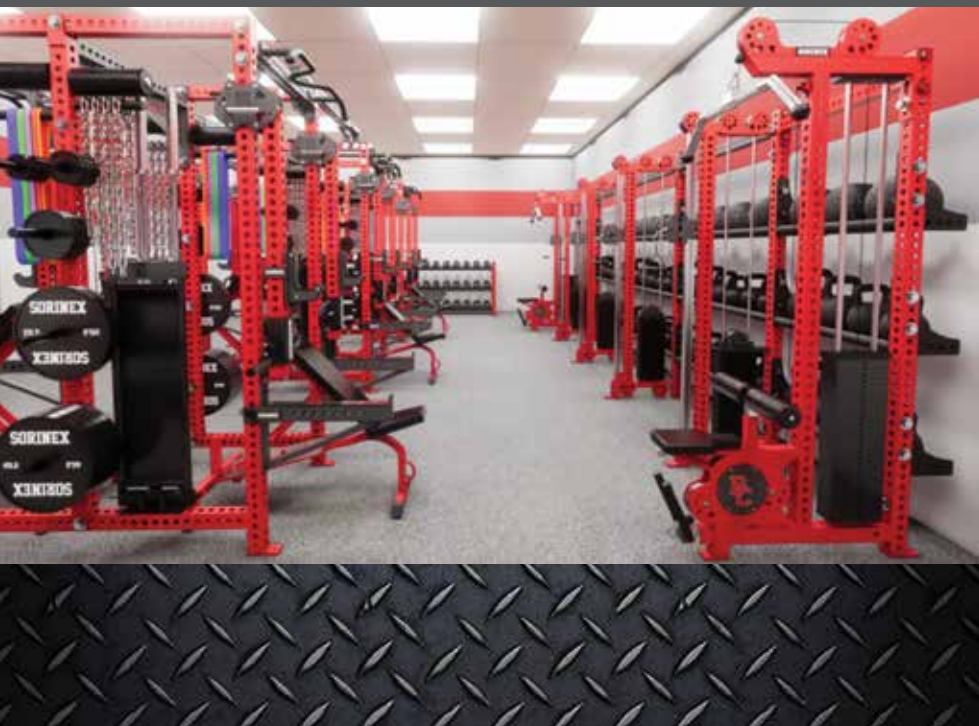
Weight for It: BC Raises the Bar for Its Student-Athletes

Student-athletes at Buckeye Central will soon have a newly-renovated, state-of-the-art weight room at the fieldhouse and will see new equipment arriving in the auxiliary weight room.

The current weight-lifting equipment at the fieldhouse was generously donated to Buckeye Central by the family of former student-athlete, Bryce Lutz. Buckeye Central athletes have benefited from this equipment since 2017. That same year, the auxiliary weight room was furnished by the athletic boosters, who provided several key pieces of equipment. The administration, coaching staff, and Board of Education are grateful for the generous donations of this important foundational equipment that has served student-athletes for the past seven years, and they look forward to providing the new equipment to BC students.

“When searching for the perfect equipment for our weight rooms, we knew we wanted something that would last as long as our amazing school,” Athletic Director Phil Loy said.

The district chose to work with Sorinex, the leading provider of innovative, high-quality exercise equipment used by many NFL and college teams. The company is known for maximizing space in schools and providing durable, safe, and effective fitness equipment. “I am extremely excited for our coaches and student-athletes who will benefit from this project,” Loy added.



Orton-Gillingham Shapes Students' Math Skills

Research indicates that early math learning plays a critical role in determining how successful students will be in both math and reading. The Orton-Gillingham math approach uses a multisensory method that allows students to learn through hands-on activities, visual aids, and eventually transition the information into numbers and symbols. By engaging multiple senses, students develop a deeper understanding of math concepts, which not only strengthens their math skills but also enhances their overall academic performance.



We are grateful for these four BC staff members who used personal time this summer to complete Orton-Gillingham math training. (L to R) Tracy Phillips, Hanah Wilson, Jackie Stockmaster, Leona Goulden.

Take Me to Your LEADERS

Elementary students at Buckeye Central have eagerly applied for leadership roles, taking on various responsibilities to help their classmates and the school community. These young leaders assist by getting recess toys out and putting them away, serving as Golden Dustman monitors, ensuring hallway safety as hallway monitors, managing the microphone in the lunchroom, and overseeing the “We_R BC” ticket cart. Through these roles, students are learning the value of responsibility and teamwork while making a positive impact on their school environment.



Here's the Dirt - Our Custodians Keep BC Looking Brand New



This extremely hardworking team takes tremendous pride in their work, and our buildings are spotless - even after 12 years!
(L to R) Mary Showman, Andy Suver, Doug Cramer, Greg Stockmaster, Scott Shoup, Steve Aichholz, and Derrick Heydinger
(Not pictured - Regular Substitute Custodians - Tom Bishop, Ken Geiger, and George Wechter.)

History Students “Enlightened” With Project’s STEM Features

The History Department’s Enlightenment Unit culminated in a unique and engaging project conceived, planned, and implemented collaboratively by Ms. Miller and Mrs. Betts. Students worked in groups to create an Enlightenment Hall of Fame, where they nominated historical figures from the era.

Once they selected their figures, the groups built models of their inductees, which were required to light up, move, and deliver an acceptance speech using Birdbrain Technology. With guidance from Mrs. Betts on the design process, students brought their figures to life by recording speeches, designing models, and coding the technology.

When the Hall of Fame was complete, the class selected one historical “inductee” to represent their final project.

Show Us What You’ve Got!

The Buckeye Central Marching Show Band performed at the South Central Parade of Bands. They were one of ten bands in attendance that performed on the field and participated in a drum battle.



Messy Play is Okay!

Bitty Bucks has created some exciting spaces over the last two years to engage students in a fun and messy way. The playground has a mud kitchen and a construction area, which prompt STEAM-based play opportunities for our students.

These areas are messy, which does create some extra work in the cleanup; however, our staff uses this as a valuable learning opportunity. We have had a recent addition of coverall waders for students to wear, along with a variety of sizes of rain boots!

Is this area doing anything more than creating a very large, beautiful mess? Yes - it is doing SO much more! Students are learning self-help skills by assisting in cleaning up the area, cleaning themselves, undressing from their waders and boots, and taking responsibility for hanging up and putting away supplies. Plus, there are countless opportunities to develop essential life skills such as:



LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Role-playing helps children expand their vocabulary and storytelling skills.



REAL-LIFE LEARNING

Hands-on experiences make abstract concepts more concrete and memorable.



COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Imaginative play encourages creative and symbolic thinking.



FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Handling utensils and manipulating materials helps improve fine motor coordination.



SENSORY EXPLORATION

Engaging with different textures supports sensory regulation and development.



PROBLEM-SOLVING

Finding ways to move and manipulate materials fosters problem-solving skills while also enhancing social interaction with peers.

We're thrilled to see our kids so engaged and learning through play. The mud kitchen is a wonderful space where creativity and essential skills come together.

Football Game Brings Fans Together in Show of Patriotism and Community

Buckeye Central Government students learned the proper techniques for folding and retiring the U.S. flag with respect. They then put their new skills to use at a flag retirement ceremony before the Military Appreciation Night football game, during which students properly retired 226 flags.

In addition to the ceremony, our Buckeye Central Teen Leadership students hosted a tailgate event for veterans from both Buckeye Central and our opponent, Bucyrus. The students cooked and served hot dogs, sweet corn, chips, and cookies to veterans throughout the game, showing their appreciation for those who have served our country.

Peace Day Activities Help Students Focus on Conflict Resolution

As part of the 2024 United States Institute of Peace Teacher program, BC teacher Amy Miller had the honor of participating in discussions and lectures focused on conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts worldwide. These conversations, led by experts in the field, highlighted the work of the nongovernmental United States Institute of Peace, emphasizing the importance of bringing peacebuilding skills into classrooms and communities.

Ms. Miller used Bucks Block time to highlight conflicts that impact children globally and celebrate peace. In celebration of Peace Day on Sept. 21, she planned activities to raise awareness of global peace efforts and promote peaceful conflict resolution within the school. Activities included taking a conflict style survey to help students understand different conflict approaches, listening to peace poems from children in conflict areas such as Ukraine, Haiti, and Sudan, and creating peace poems in support of those searching for peaceful resolutions.

The celebration concluded at the Friday night football game, where the Buckeye Central Marching Band joined the Colonel Crawford Marching Band on the field to stand united for peace as they performed the national anthem together.



FCS Equips Students with Essential Skills They Can't Live Without

Our Family and Consumer Science (FCS) program is vibrant with activities in courses like Introduction to FCS, Senior Seminar, Interior Design, and Principles of Food! Here's a sneak peek at what our amazing students are up to:



Introduction to FCS

- Exploring investing opportunities
- Mastering sewing tools and techniques
- Constructing aprons



Senior Seminar

- Aligning career pathways with personality types, values, interests, and skills
- Using assessments like Ohio Means Jobs, ASVAB, and YouScience
- Developing professional documents such as cover letters and resumes
- Enhancing professionalism through soft skills training and guest speakers
- Setting up job shadowing opportunities to gain real-world experience



Interior Design

- Writing poems reflecting personal housing values
- Acting as "house hunters" to find homes for fictional clients based on life cycle stages
- Investigating the career pathway of an interior designer



Principles of Food

- Learning the essential role of food in everyday life
- Researching famous chefs and their careers
- Training to become ServSafe Certified Food Handlers
- Preparing a variety of recipes, from baked goods to dips



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Service Project Helps Educate Public on Ohio Pollinator Habitats

The seventh-graders at Buckeye Central are taking on an important service project focused on educating the public about pollinator habitats and ways to increase the Monarch butterfly population. As part of this initiative, students are creating educational videos that explain where to find common milkweed seed pods, how to identify when they are ripe, and the proper method for harvesting and depositing them.

Buckeye Central is serving as a collection site for the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District, making it easy for the community to participate in this conservation effort. Seed pods can be dropped off in the green and yellow bin located at the front of the school through the end of October.

Ohio Optometric Foundation Program Has its Eye on BC Students

Dr. Christina Fox visited Buckeye Central to provide eye exams through the iSee Program. This initiative, funded by the Ohio Optometric Foundation, offers free eye exams, glasses, and fittings directly at the school. A total of 18 students received eye exams, with seven students set to receive glasses, and three referred for further testing. The program helped Buckeye Central students start the school year off right. Thank you to Dr. Fox for supporting our students through this valuable program! You can find more information about the iSee Program at ohiooptometricfoundation.org.

