



# Southwest Licking

## LOCAL SCHOOLS



## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kasey Perkins, Superintendent  
Mr. Michael Tanchevski, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Daniel Davis, Director of Student Services  
Mrs. Melissa Ladowitz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Mrs. Tonya Sherburne, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Richard Jones, Treasurer



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kandee Engle, President  
John Vincent, Vice-President  
Debra Moore, Member  
Catherine Spindler, Member  
Roger Zeune, Member



# Dr. Kasey Perkins

## *Superintendent*

Welcome back to the 2024-2025 school year!

As the first day of school quickly approaches us, I am excited to welcome back all of our students and their families. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we are delighted to have you in our school community. Each new year brings a sense of excitement and opportunity. Our dedicated custodial, grounds, and maintenance staff have been working all summer to ensure our facilities are ready to go for your child. Building teams have been working on new programs, exciting plans to enhance your child's educational experience, and preparations for the first day of school.

Renovated Kirkersville is reopening and our Kirk students will be back in their home school to start the year. We are excited for them to see the much-needed changes to the building. The work on Pataskala South Fork continues as the building is set to open in the fall of 2025. Keep an eye out for the District's redistricting plan for our K-3 buildings this fall. Redistricting changes will not go into effect until the fall of 2025 but boundaries will be shared soon so our families can plan accordingly.

Our community task force has been meeting regularly to review District growth, building capacities, and to discuss future facilities. The task force, comprised of parents, staff, community members, and local business owners, plans to present a plan for future growth to the Board of Education this fall. Be on the lookout for future communications regarding this group and plans for the District.

Be sure to check out all of the important dates in this newsletter to not miss out on upcoming open houses, our first Friday night football game, and a variety of events at each building. You can find updated information on our website, social media accounts, and through building and District newsletters. Make sure to sign up for all communication methods to keep up to date with important information.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with the District. Together, we can make this year a great one for all students and staff. I look forward to working with you to help our students achieve their full potential.

Wishing you all a successful school year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kasey Perkins".

Dr. Perkins, Superintendent



# Mr. Michael Tanchevski

## *Assistant Superintendent*



As we kick off on another school year I would like to share a message about who we are, what we're about, and where we're going.

### **Who We Are**

We're people who care about your kids--their safety, their well-being, and their education. We care about their success, their struggles, their triumphs, and their failures. That's what keeps us awake at night.

We spend hours discussing and doing what's best for each student, during the school year and beyond.

We get upset when we know kids can do better and when we can do better. We make mistakes. That's how you know we're trying.

### **What We're About**

Teaching and learning. That involves students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community. Learning and teaching are not solitary experiences, we're all responsible for student success.

We focus on what students need to know, how they're getting there, how they know they're going in the right direction, and making sure they are properly equipped to handle the journey.

All of this looks different for individual students and teachers. We encourage students to challenge themselves and push beyond plateaus by taking risks through practice. We won't ignore errors; we'll respond to them in a manner that allows for self-correction.

We use the best available tools and resources to determine what each student is thinking when they're successful, and what they're thinking when they struggle or fail. That's how we move forward and build on success as well as failure.

### **Where We're Going**

We are working toward the ideal that the needs of every child are met and all graduates develop and pursue academic and career goals in a healthy emotional fashion and spiritually fulfilling manner. We want to maximize the capacity of each student.

We care. We have a plan. We have a vision.

We're looking forward to a great year and we encourage each of you to actively participate in your child's education.





# Mr. Daniel Davis

## *Director of Student Services*

As we prepare to embark on another year of growth, learning, and support, we wanted to take a moment to welcome you back and share some exciting updates from the Student Services Department.

First and foremost, we are thrilled to have all of our students returning for another great year. Whether students attend in person or through our digital academy, our commitment to providing the best possible education and support remains unwavering.

Throughout the summer, our dedicated team of educators and support staff have been diligently preparing for the new academic year. Many of our team members have been attending advanced training throughout the summer in order to implement new strategies to enhance learning experiences and to better serve every student.

For parents and guardians, we believe that strong communication and collaboration between home and school are essential for student success. Please know that our doors are always open, whether you have questions about Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), want to discuss your child's progress, or simply want to connect with our team.

We are looking forward to a positive and productive school year ahead. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and growth.

### **Who is part of the Student Services Team?**

Intervention Specialists

Speech/Language Pathologists

Adaptive PE Teachers

Behavioral Specialists

Paraprofessionals

Occupational Therapists

Sign Language Interpreters

Counselors / Social Workers

Psychologists

Occupational Therapy Assistants

Vision Specialists

Physical Therapists





# Mrs. Melissa Ladowitz

## Director of Curriculum & Instruction



The Curriculum Department is excited to welcome back students and staff. Our work includes selecting and implementing instructional programs; supporting teachers in their professional development; ensuring appropriate services to meet student needs and interests; coordinating assessments and analyzing student data; and collaboratively solving problems.



Students and staff in grades K - 3 have done a fantastic job implementing structured literacy programming, and we're eager to expand that into 4th grade this year. We will continue to offer additional supports for our English language learners and for our students who need additional help in reading. We are proud to support students' college and career readiness through a wide variety of courses aligned with high demand career paths, as well as courses and enrichment activities designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork.

It's sure to be an exciting school year!



# Mrs. Tonya Sherburne

## Director of Human Resources

We're thrilled to welcome a new wave of talented educators to our team! This year's group brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our classrooms.

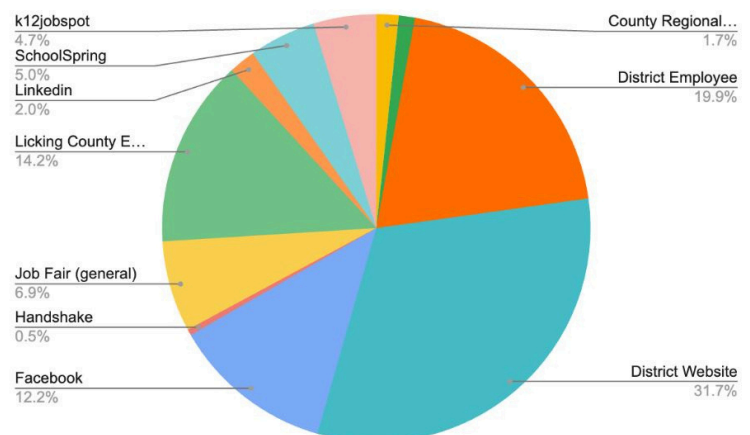
We'd also like to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to our incredible community. Referrals from current staff and community members were our top source of qualified candidates!

Your willingness to share social media posts, direct candidates to our website to spread the word about open positions, and encourage others to apply is truly appreciated. It speaks volumes about the positive reputation of our district and the supportive environment we've fostered together.

Furthermore, we're especially proud to welcome several graduates of WMHS and residents of our community. This homecoming is a testament to the quality education we provide and the deep connections we build with our students.

We look forward to introducing you to our new staff members throughout the year, and to another successful year of learning and growth together. Thank you for your continued support!

**How did you hear about us?**



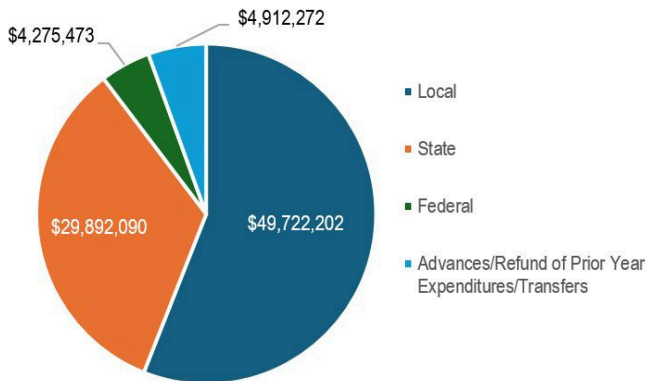


## TREASURER UPDATE

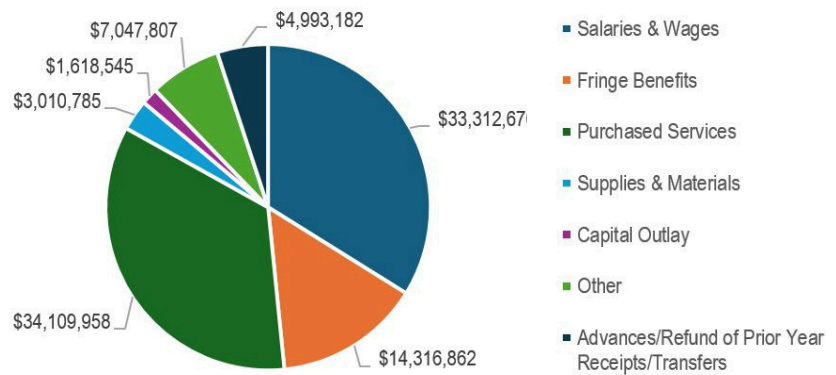
*Richard Jones, Treasurer*

With the passing of June 30, the District completed another fiscal year with a positive cash flow in the general operating fund. The cash flow, either positive or negative, is an important indicator of the financial health of the District. With a positive cash flow, the District has more receipts than expenditures; however, with a negative cash flow, the expenditures are more than the receipts.

**Fiscal Year 2024 Receipts By Source**



**Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures By Category**



## BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

*Robert Jennell, Project Manager*

In the spring of 2019, the Southwest Licking Local Schools held a kickoff for a multi-million dollar building project co-funded with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). During the past five years, the District has either opened or reopened four buildings. These new builds and renovations are benefitting our students by providing audio enhancement capabilities in each classroom,

Clevertouch Interactive Displays, new fire alarm and sprinkler systems, new LED lighting, new and updated HVAC systems, secure front entrances, and much more.

This month, the District will reopen Kirkersville Elementary for students in K-3. The building began undergoing renovations in January 2023 and has a completely new look inside and out. Inside, the building boasts the latest in technology, safety, and climate controlled classrooms found in all of our previous builds. On the outside, the building has undergone a major makeover with the addition of a new front entrance, siding, landscaping, parent drop-off and pickup area, parking, and an all-inclusive playground.

With the students moving into the newly renovated Kirkersville building and the middle school students already in their new space, the old middle school building will soon begin the abatement and demolition process. The middle school building started its life in 1955, as the original high school for the newly formed Southwest Licking Local Schools.

Finally, the construction of the new 800 student, 75,600 square foot Pataskala South Fork Elementary is well underway and on time for a spring 2025 completion.

The Southwest Licking Local School District appreciates the support and patience of the community for bearing with the inconvenience and mess during the new construction and renovation phases.





# IMPORTANT DATES



## GENERAL DATES

August 9 - Teachers and Transportation Details Emailed

August 15

- First Day of School K-5 - Pat, Etna, WIS (Last Names A-K)
- First Day of School Grades 6 and 9

August 16

- First Day of School K-5 - Pat, Etna, WIS (Last Names L-Z)
- All Students in Grades 6 - 12 Attend

August 19 - All Students Attend (excluding Kirkersville)

August 14 - 18 - Visit our Street Fair Booth

August 20 - First Day of School for Kirkersville Students

## BUILDING EVENTS

### Early Learning Center

- August 15 - Open House (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm)
- August 19 - First Day of Preschool ALL students

### Etna Elementary AND Pataskala Elementary

- August 14 - KINDERGARTEN ONLY Open House / Curriculum Night (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
- August 20 - Grades 1 - 3 Open House / Curriculum Night (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

### Kirkersville Elementary

- August 19 - Grades K - 3 Open House / Curriculum Night (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

### Watkins Intermediate School

- August 14 - 4th Grade Supply Drop-Off and Self-Guided Tours (4:00 pm - 5:00 pm)
- August 21 - Open House / Curriculum Night (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

### Watkins Middle School

- August 8-9 - Schedule Pick-Up, Walk the Building, Access Lockers (8:00 am - 2:00 pm)
- August 22 - Open House / Curriculum Night (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

### Watkins Memorial High School

- August 8 - Warrior Check-In
  - 12th grade - 8:00 am
  - 11th grade - 9:30 am
  - 10th grade - 11:00 am
  - 9th grade - 12:30 pm
- August 19 - Open House / Curriculum Night (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

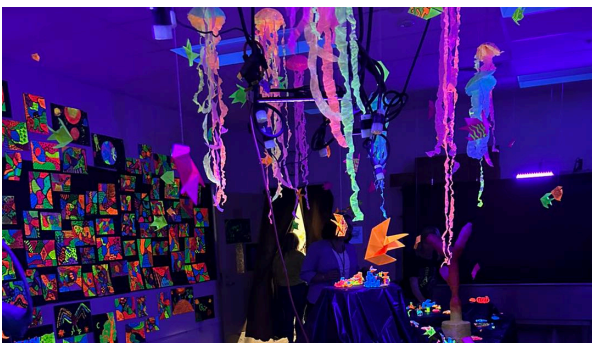


### SWL Digital Academy

- August 13 - Orientation at Watkins Intermediate School cafeteria (6:30 pm)



# 2023-2024





# HIGHLIGHTS







# TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

*Ryan Brown, Director of Logistics*

We are excited to transport your children to and from school this year. All students requesting transportation should have completed their Final Forms transportation information. If you have any changes, those changes must be made prior to July 26th for them to be effective for the first day of school. Any changes made after July 26th will not be ready until August 26th. During the school year if you need to make transportation changes, you must update the transportation portion of Final Forms. Below are some frequently asked questions about transportation. Lastly, we will email out students' busing information on August 9th. If you have any additional questions, please contact the transportation department.

**Q: What time does my child need to get to their bus stop?**

**A:** Students should be at their assigned bus stop at least 5 minutes before the actual bus stop time. Students should be waiting at the bus stop and not approaching the stop as the bus arrives. The bus is not able to wait on students.

**Q: I live in one elementary school boundary. My child's daycare/babysitter lives within a different elementary school boundary. What should I do?**

**A:** SWL schools will not transport children across school boundaries. You will need to either transport your own child or find a daycare/babysitter within your school boundary. Some daycares will transport students.

**Q: We are planning on moving to another area within the district, can my child start attending their new school before we move?**

**A:** No. Students will need to attend the building in which you currently reside until proof of a change of address is provided.

**Q: What if the address used for transportation changes before the school year starts?**

**A:** If the move is prior to July 26th, you can update Final Forms on our website. After July 26th, you will need to update Final Forms, and busing will not be available until August 26th.

**Q: Do you offer open-enrollment for elementary students in grades K-3 to other buildings?**

**A:** No, we do not. Students will attend their residential school.

**Q: Who has the authority to change my bus stop or route?**

**A:** The transportation department is the only authority that can make a change to bus routes or stops. If you believe your bus stop is unsafe and/or does not fit the bus stop criteria set forth by the district, please contact the transportation department.

**Q: What do I do if my child loses something on the bus?**

**A:** Drivers inspect the interior of the bus after each route. Drivers are instructed to keep all found articles of unknown origin on board the bus for at least five days. Then articles are returned to the school building.

**Q: Can my student ride home with a friend/relative?**

**A:** Due to our resources and student safety concerns, we are not able to permit students to ride home with their friends or relatives.





# FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

*Cindy Pickering, Food Service Supervisor*

The SWL Food Service Team is eager to welcome back all students and staff into school cafeterias. Our menus feature a variety of affordable and nutritious breakfast and lunch options daily. We provide all components of a balanced plate, including whole grains, vegetables, fruits, protein and dairy.



Please visit <https://www.swl.k12.oh.us/departments/food-services> for menus and more information.

## Farm to School

We are excited to partner with both the Watkins Middle and High School agricultural programs this year. We plan to incorporate some of the produce that the students cultivate and harvest into our meal service. Birney's Farm Market in Pataskala will also be supplying us with some seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables.

## Meal Prices

Meals are NOT automatically free. Meals should be paid for in advance. Prices are only reduced or free if your family has completed and qualified with a new free/reduced application for the 2024-25 school year. Meal prices did NOT increase this year and have remained the same for the last several years.



Breakfast		Lunch	
Elementary	\$1.25	Elementary	\$2.75
Intermediate	\$1.25	Intermediate	\$2.75
Middle School	\$1.25	Middle School	\$3.00
High School	\$1.25	High School	\$3.25
Reduced/Free	FREE	Reduced/Free	FREE

Extra smart snack compliant drinks/snacks are available for purchase daily in grades 1-12.

## Q: If I applied for free/reduced meals last year, do I need to apply again this year?

A: Yes, the state requires a new application every year after July 1.

## Q: How do I apply for free/reduced meals?

A: Please visit [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com) to complete the online application.

## Q: What if I choose not to apply or I just don't qualify?

A: Money should be placed on a student's account prior to meal purchasing.



## Q: How do I add \$ to my student's meal account?

- Go to [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) to add money using either a debit or credit card or EFT. My School Bucks allows you to track the balance and review transactions. The My School Bucks phone app makes it super simple.
- Another option is to send in cash/check with your student in an envelope marked with their name and indicate "lunch money." Deposits are processed before lunch service.
- We can not accept payments during lunch time so that we can focus on quickly serving students.

Want to be a part-time sub in food service? Apply online at <https://www.applitrack.com/swl/onlineapp/>.

# Southwest Licking Local School District

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[www.swl.k12.oh.us](http://www.swl.k12.oh.us)

## STAY INFORMED



WEBSITE: [WWW.SWL.K12.OH.US](http://WWW.SWL.K12.OH.US)



FACEBOOK: FOLLOW US AT @SWLLSD



SWL APP: SOUTHWEST LICKING SCHOOLS



BOARD MEETINGS: 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:00 PM



COFFEE TALKS: DATES ON WEBSITE



OPEN OFFICE HOURS: DATES ON WEBSITE

**VISIT OUR  
STREET FAIR  
BOOTH**