



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

As we wrap up the first quarter, I'm pleased to share that the school year is off to a strong start. Students have settled into their routines, and our staff has been working hard to support both their learning and well-being. Whether in the classroom or through extracurricular activities, we've seen steady progress and a sense of focus across the District. With fall now in full swing, winter sports are right around the corner, and we're all looking forward to the exciting months ahead. A quick reminder for our families: this year's calendar includes a fall break for both students and staff during the week of Thanksgiving, so please take the opportunity to enjoy quality time with your loved ones.

There have been many exciting developments throughout the District this quarter. Several of our fall sports teams are contenders for the LCL Championship, our marching band and choir have been invited to perform in the London New Year's Day Parade in 2026, and our high school proudly boasts a National Merit Semifinalist and a National Merit Commendation recipient. At the middle school, our Agriculture program has been providing fresh vegetables from their food forest to the cafeteria, while third-grade students enjoyed a trip to the Columbus Symphony, and fifth-grade students attended camp on our campus. These are just a few examples of the incredible opportunities our students have experienced so far, demonstrating the District's commitment to offering a diverse and enriching education for every student.

Behind the scenes, work is progressing on redistricting our elementary boundaries in preparation for the opening of Pataskala South Fork in the fall of 2025. We plan to share the new boundaries for our elementary buildings in November. Pataskala South Fork is being constructed to accommodate the growing needs of our community, with a building capacity of 800 students, compared to the current capacity of 600 at Etna and Kirkersville Elementary.

As you also may have noticed, several new developments are popping up throughout our community, with more on the horizon. Monthly updates on District growth, building progress, and future projects are shared in The Community Compass newsletter. A recent edition is attached, and I encourage you to take a look to stay informed about what's happening in our District.

We're looking forward to an exciting second quarter with much to celebrate. Stay tuned for future updates via Facebook, the District website, and email communications.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kasey Perkins". The script is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Kasey Perkins, Superintendent



SUPERINTENDENT DR. KASEY PERKINS

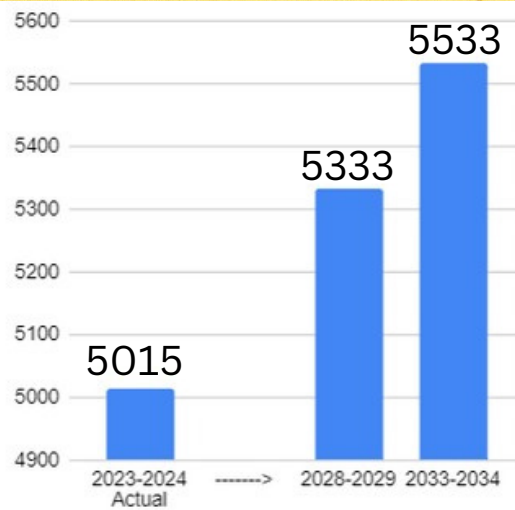
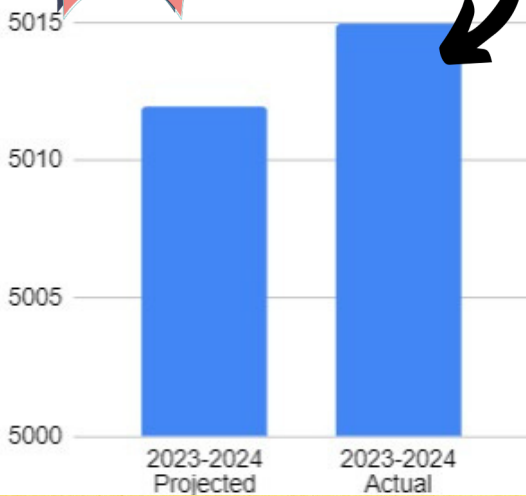
COMMUNITY COMPASS

The District's Future Direction

ACCURACY
99%

WOOLPERT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS
PROJECTED 2023-2024 - 5012
ACTUAL 2023-2024 - 5015

Future Growth



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year Woolpert does an enrollment projection for the District. The enrollment projections were developed using:

- Historical enrollment by grade and year
- Census data
- Resident live birth data
- Building permits

Enrollment K-12 in the District has increased by 856 students since the 2015 school year.

PATASKALA SOUTH FORK



THIS VISUAL HIGHLIGHTS THE COURTYARD SITUATED BETWEEN THE TWO WINGS OF THE NEW K-3 BUILDING, DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE 800 STUDENTS.

DRAYTON HALL

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY FOR THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AT 310/40, A 264 UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING COMPLEX.



Mr. Michael Tanchevski

Assistant Superintendent



College, a new job, or maybe even the military? All these paths require a level of readiness we work to develop throughout the student experience in Southwest Licking Local Schools.

In today's competitive and fast-paced world, having a set of essential skills is crucial for achieving success in college, a career, the workforce, or the military. These shared success skills allow for personal growth and contribute to building a strong foundation for collaboration and achievement.



By cultivating communication skills, collaboration, teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving, adaptability and resilience, time management and organization, as well as leadership and decision-making abilities, our graduates enhance their capabilities and thrive in diverse environments. These skills not only contribute to individual success but also foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence that benefits all members of a community or organization.



Being ready for college, a career, the workforce, or military service doesn't happen overnight. It takes consistency, effort, and the willingness to learn. That ideal applies to the District too. We constantly strive to improve what we do, while being on the lookout for innovations and ideas to support and grow all our students.

Mr. Daniel Davis

Director of Student Services



Our Peer Collaboration program is off and running again this school year! Peer Collaboration is a program that connects peer models with students in need of additional support in both academic and extracurricular settings. Students in grades 6-12 can apply to be Peer Collaborators at the start of the school year. If selected, these students receive training and are paired up with fellow students in their building and sometimes across the district. Connections made between students through this program support our goal of making all kids feel connected and feel a sense of belonging to their school.

Check out what some of our Peer Collaborators have to say about the program:

Carlie Taggart, Senior

What got you interested in the Peer Collaboration Program?

One of the careers I'm considering is in the field of teaching. Being a Peer Collaborator gives me the opportunity to take a different role in the classroom and work with students. I enjoyed working with students at the Intermediate building so much last year that I wanted to do it again my senior year! I love seeing the kids that I work with. I enjoy supporting them with social skills and being a part of their class. It's one of the best parts of my day!

WoJo Moore, Junior

In what ways has being a Peer Collaborator been a good experience for you?

I have learned a lot. I've learned so much about how students benefit from being taught differently based on their own strengths, I respect the amount of adversity students go through and I have used that as inspiration for my own life. I wish more kids took the opportunity to develop relationships with kids who are different from them because like me they will get so much more out of the experience than they give. I recommend Peer Collaboration to everyone.

Logan Grezlik, Junior

What have you learned from your experience as a Peer Collaborator?

I have learned that kids learn differently and that's ok. For example, some of the kids I get a chance to work with are nonverbal. This has inspired me to learn some sign language so that we can better communicate. It has been a great experience!





Mrs. Melissa Ladowitz

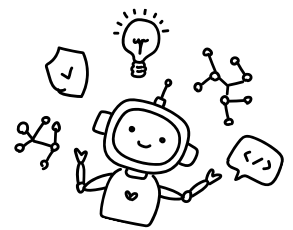
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Etna Elementary teacher Mr. Hinkle is the recipient of the Excellence in Education award for his outstanding work as an EL Specialist and dedicated student advocate. In a recent class, Mr. Hinkle got his students excited about writing by asking them to evaluate the effectiveness of various types of paper towels and then write about their findings.

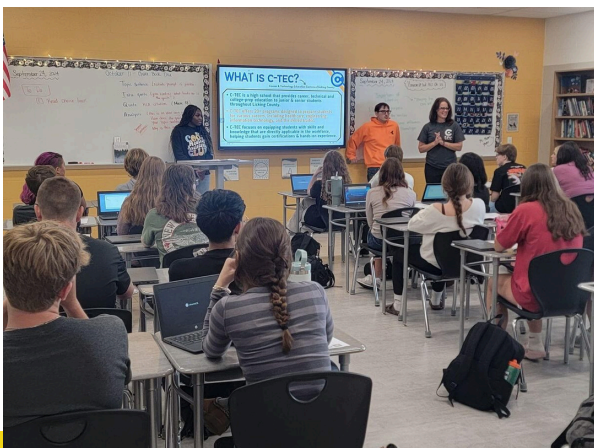


Congratulations to the Marching Warriors and WMHS Choirs on their invitation to travel to London, England to perform in the 2026 London New Year's Day Parade and International Choral Music Festival.

Instructional Coaches Mrs. Holloway and Mrs. Spurlock write grants to support projects throughout the District. Mrs. Holloway just secured a \$5000 grant from the Ohio STEM Learning Network for her work with Lego Robotics, and Mrs. Spurlock was awarded a \$200 Licking County Retired Teachers Grant to fund a dramatic play cabinet at Kirkersville.



In addition to assessing, monitoring, and adjusting to students' academic progress, we must also prepare students for their lives after high school. One way we do that is by giving students



opportunities to explore a variety of career pathways. This may look like career-themed imaginative play bins at indoor recess, career fairs, guest speakers, mock interviews, and field trips. 10th grade English classes had the opportunity to work with CTEC staff and students to learn more about opportunities available to WMHS students. In November, 10th graders will attend a field trip to CTEC for Sophomore Hands On Day, where they will tour programs of their individual choosing to gain more insight about career pathways and experiences CTEC can offer.

Mrs. Tonya Sherburne

Director of Human Resources



Job Fair

On October 29, we will host a substitute job fair at the District Office from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. This is a unique opportunity for those interested in serving as a substitute teacher, custodian, cook, bus driver, secretary, or educational aide. We will guide you through the application process and provide assistance with your licensure application through the State Board of Education if needed. Background checks will be conducted on the spot. For any queries, please feel free to reach out to Pam Davis, our Human Resources Administrative Assistant, at pdavis@laca.org.

School Safety

Each school building conducts safety drills throughout the school year. These drills are not just a legal requirement but a crucial part of our commitment to maintaining a safe environment for our students to study and learn. We must practice our emergency and crisis response plans to ensure we are prepared for any situation.

Our District follows the run, hide, fight protocol consistent with the Department of Homeland Security recommendation. Students are taught to assess situations and make decisions based on their circumstances, which applies to real-world situations. Local law enforcement is involved with our training and drills. Please note that they do not use simulated gunfire and other types of stimulus during the drills.

We understand that drills of this nature can be concerning for some students. However, they are necessary for teaching our students how to respond in emergency situations. The student training is designed to be developmentally appropriate for your child's grade level. We encourage families to have open and honest conversations with their students before and after the drill. This will help alleviate any concerns and foster a sense of community and shared responsibility.

Please contact the building principal if you have any questions regarding safety drills.





TREASURER UPDATE

Richard Jones, Treasurer

Understanding the Five-Year Forecast Requirements for Ohio Public Schools

As Ohio's educational landscape continues to evolve, public schools are mandated to adopt a comprehensive five-year financial forecast. This critical tool not only ensures fiscal responsibility but also promotes strategic planning that aligns with educational goals. Here's what you need to know about the requirements and implications of these forecasts.

What is a Five-Year Forecast?

The five-year forecast is a financial projection that Ohio public schools are required to prepare annually. It outlines expected revenues and expenditures over the next five years, providing a roadmap for financial health and sustainability. This forecast must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and is a key component in decision-making for budgeting and resource allocation.

Key Requirements

1. Each school district must submit its forecast to the ODE twice a year – once by November 30th and again by May 31st.
2. The forecast must include:
 - a. Revenue projections, including local, state, and federal funding sources.
 - b. Expenditure estimates, covering salaries, benefits, facilities, and operational costs.
 - c. Assumptions underlying these projections, such as enrollment trends, tax rate changes, and funding policy shifts.
3. As circumstances change (e.g., shifts in enrollment or unexpected funding changes), districts must update their forecasts to reflect new information. This flexibility helps schools remain agile in their financial planning.
4. Schools are required to present their forecasts to the school board and make the information available to the public. This ensures accountability and offers insight into the district's financial health.

Importance of the Five-Year Forecast

The five-year forecast serves several critical purposes:

1. It provides a clear picture of a district's financial status, helping administrators identify potential deficits and surpluses early on.
2. By anticipating future financial conditions, schools can better align resources with educational priorities, ensuring funds are allocated effectively.
3. The process encourages discussions about financial decisions, making it easier for communities to understand the fiscal challenges schools face.

Conclusion

Ohio's five-year forecast requirements are more than just a bureaucratic obligation—the five-year forecast is a vital component of effective school management. By engaging in thoughtful financial planning, public schools can navigate challenges, allocate resources wisely, and ultimately provide a better educational experience for their students. As communities and educators work together to fulfill these requirements, the focus remains on achieving excellence in education while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

For more information on the five-year forecasting process and resources available to assist districts, please visit the Ohio Department of Education's website at <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Five-Year-Forecasts>.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Robert Jennell, Project Manager



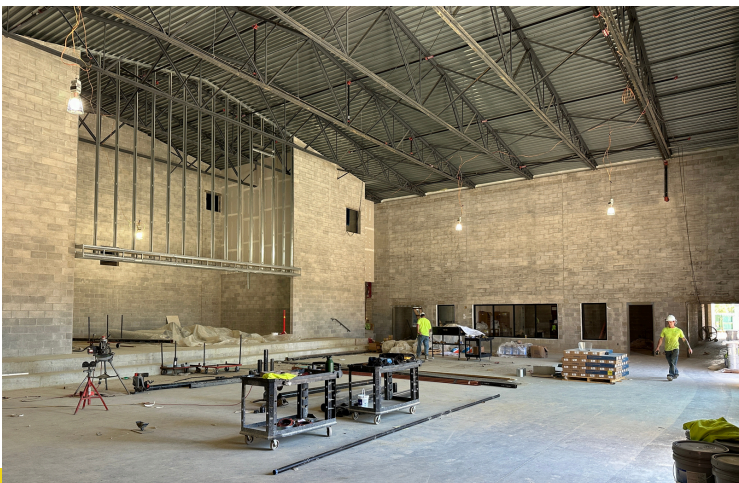
Kirkersville re-opens! The 58,500+ square foot Kirkersville facility re-opened its doors to K-3 students this August. A new playground, gym makeover, technology upgrades and numerous security features top the extensive list of changes made to the building. This marks the opening or re-opening of the District's fifth building under the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) Building Project.

The opening also marks the halfway point in the final phase of the building project that passed in 2017. The construction and subsequent opening of the Pataskala South Fork Elementary building will be the last of the projects under this bond issue. The 78,650 square foot neighborhood K-3 building will be located at 8750 Watkins Road or just north of the old middle school and will open in August 2025. The building will utilize metal roof panels and the same black, yellow, grey, and red brick colors used previously on the Watkins Intermediate and Watkins Memorial High School buildings. It will also have 35 full size classrooms, a media center, gymnasium, multiple small group rooms, a soft surface playground, separated bus and parent drop off areas, and the same updated technology amenities found in our previous buildings, and much more.



The District also has a few smaller construction projects in design or underway, including additional parking at the football/soccer fields, a southbound right turn lane on Watkins Road at the intersection of Watkins Road and Warrior Way and a restroom facility, with additional parking, at the newly opened western campus athletic fields.

The Southwest Licking Schools appreciates the continued support and patience of the community for the inconvenience and mess during the new construction and renovation phases.





TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Ryan Brown, Director of Logistics



The transportation department has had a great start to the school year. Thank you parents for your continued support and patience.

The week of October 21st through the 25th was School Bus Safety week. Students at our elementary schools reviewed what it means to be safe on and around a school bus in their classes. We also took school buses to each elementary school and our drivers went over the basics of school bus safety with the students while the students were on the bus. Those basics are students should be sitting on a seat with their back against the back of the seat and their feet pointed to the floor. They should also keep their hands and feet to themselves and use an inside voice at all times. We encourage you at home to reinforce these simple safety tips for how to ride on a school bus.

We could use your help. We have had a significant increase in the number of motorists driving past our buses when they are stopped to pick-up and/or drop-off students. Obviously, this is very unsafe, and we are turning those motorists into the Ohio State Highway Patrol for those violations. However, we want to remind everyone that as the bus approaches a stop, their yellow (amber) lights begin to flash. This is to alert drivers to begin slowing down for a stop. Once the bus comes to a stop and opens the door, the red stop lights begin flashing and the stop arm extends. When the red lights are flashing, no one should be moving until they stop flashing. Help us keep our students safe by spreading the word to drive more cautiously around school buses.

SWL DIGITAL ACADEMY

It has been a tremendous start to SWL Digital Academy's school year. During the first semester, we have seventy nine full-time 6th through 12th grade students enrolled. These students have had the opportunity to learn at their own pace on their own time. Though online learning is not for every student, the SWL Digital Academy has provided our students another opportunity to access curriculum and be successful.

As we look toward November, I encourage all of our current students to keep up with their pacing within their courses and continue to submit their guided notes. Students need to make sure they are keeping their current grades up while also increasing the number of hours they are online each week. Parents/guardians should be encouraging their child to create and stick to a daily schedule. This is the easiest way to make sure they stay on track for the semester.

Finally, it is that time of year to start thinking about next semester. If you need an environment that is flexible and can work around your child's schedule and needs, we hope you will consider enrolling your child in the SWL Digital Academy. Enrollment for next semester will begin November 18th. We would love to support your child's learning through our online platform. Visit the SWL Digital Academy website for additional information.

FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Cindy Pickering, Food Service Supervisor



SWL students participated in the Great Apple Crunch on October 10th. The Great Apple Crunch encourages healthy eating and supports farm to school and other local food purchasing initiatives throughout the region. Apples were purchased from Lynd Fruit Farm in Pataskala and supplied to students throughout the lunch service. Some teachers created and delivered apple-based learning activities for a creative way to meet learning requirements for language, math, science and more.

October is National Farm to School Month. It is a time to focus and celebrate on school gardens, food education, and lunch trays filled with healthy, local ingredients. We have been receiving produce on a weekly basis from Birney's Farm Market of Pataskala. Tomatoes, bell peppers, and watermelon have all been a part of the local produce we are serving to students. The middle school agriculture program staff and students continue to supply the middle school kitchen with additional produce like strawberries, radishes, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, and peppers. This produce is planted and harvested by the students then served in the cafeteria for students to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Families need to apply for free/reduced meals every school year. If you have not yet applied for free meals for the 2024-25 school year and feel you may qualify, please visit www.myschoolapps.com and complete the online application.

Are you looking for a part-time job with great hours and no weekends? Please join our food service substitute team and work when available and as needed. Hours are typically 3-5 hours between 8:30-1:30. If you are interested please complete the online classified application found on the Human Resources Department page of the Southwest Licking Local Schools website.





ATHLETICS UPDATE

Jake Perkins, Director of Athletics

- Make sure to follow the Warriors on Twitter/X at: WM_Warriors
- Team schedules can be accessed at:
<https://oh.dragonflyathletics.com/sites/OHSAA>
- Tickets for home events can be purchased at:
<https://swl.hometownticketing.com/embed/all>

- Both of our Warrior Golf teams finished their seasons in the top 3 of the LCL standings and our Girls team just narrowly missed qualifying for the Central District Tournament as a team, taking 5th out of 16 teams at Sectionals (top 4 advance).
- Both the girls and boys soccer teams are set to play District Semifinals vs. Canal Winchester (Boys @ CW on 10/16 and Girls Home on 10/17).
- Lady Warrior Volleyball completed the season sweep of rival Granville at home on 10/3, winning both matchups against the Aces this season. The Volleyball team will play in a District Semifinal at Mount Vernon on 10/23.

Girls Tennis has had another strong season (12-2 in dual matches with an 11 match winning streak and two tournament titles) and sophomore Nora Grennan advanced to the Central District Tennis Tournament in singles, just one match away from the state tournament as a sophomore!

Our Cross Country teams have been fueled by outstanding young runners and have had great seasons, punctuated when we hosted the LCL XC Championships and the Boys won the LCL Championship, dethroning Granville. The girls also finished as runners-up in a very close team battle with the Aces.



The Battle for Broad Street football game with Licking Heights is at home on Friday 10/18 and our Warriors come into the big game with momentum after winning their last two games and are still alive in the LCL divisional race with two games to play.



Girls Soccer celebrated their Senior Night and finished the regular season 11-5 (8-1 in the LCL and runners-up in the league).



CLINIC UPDATE

Tirzah Hammond, School Nurse

The school nursing program has recently begun our annual hearing and vision screenings. Hearing and vision screenings are mandated by the Ohio Department of Health and include grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11. Students who do not pass screenings are referred for follow-up with a healthcare provider. Hearing and vision referrals include a form with screening results and a place for information from the provider's exam. Please respond to the referral by making the appropriate appointment with your healthcare provider and be sure to return the form to the school. Please notify the school health clinic if you need help finding a healthcare provider or would like information about vision programs that offer free exams and glasses. Our goal is to remove any hearing or vision barrier so that ALL SWL students can learn successfully!



ATTENDANCE

Jeff Severino, Truancy Consultant

At the end of the first quarter, I hope your child is settled into a healthy routine for school. Below are some ways to start that routine.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school, and themselves. Families can use these strategies to help kids build a habit of good attendance:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Prepare the night before
- Practice healthy habits
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers and counselors for advice
- Develop backup plans in case something happens and you are unable to take them to school
- Try to schedule medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session
- If your child is sick, call your school for advice about whether they should come or not
- Perfect attendance isn't the goal. If your child needs to stay home because of sickness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue to learning at home
- Communicate with schools and work with the school to address systemic barriers that might be causing kids to miss more days of school than they should

If we work together, we can make school a positive experience for all involved !!

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Building independence starts at birth. Parents see their children want to start to feed themselves, taking off their own clothes, demanding to wash their own hands or expressing themselves by saying "I do it". We help foster that independence at preschool in a variety of ways.

Set predictable routines: when children can participate in their day they are better equipped to take on responsibilities.

Child size choices: these could be deciding what to wear, what to play, or who to call. It does not mean free rein, provide two or three options and then praise their great ability to make a choice.



Let them help: this not only builds independence but great tool to calm tantrums by redirecting behaviors and giving them a sense of control

Chores: giving preschool aged children chores is a stepping stone for building to larger tasks. This helps them build a sense of responsibility, self reliance, executive functioning, teaches teamwork and nurtures empathy.



Solving problems: presenting your child with tasks that are a little bit challenging, but still within what they can do with some support allows them to learn to deal with frustration, solve problems, and stick to challenging situations.

Encourage projects: this couple be from building puzzles to crafts, provide opportunities to focus their attention on an activity for a period of time.

Nurture free play: independent and unstructured play fosters creativity, problem-solving, and autonomy. Repurposed materials and recyclables can be used in endless ways.



ETNA ELEMENTARY



The new school year at Etna has begun on a high note, with our students, staff, and families demonstrating unwavering dedication to academic excellence and teamwork. This was evident by the amazing turnout at this year's Curriculum Nights.



Etna participated in district initiatives like Start with Hello Week. This social and emotional learning program focuses on the power of connecting and uniting through simple acts of kindness. This initiative complements our daily SEL lessons utilizing our Character Strong program. Students from each classroom were recognized during this year's first Character Trait Assembly, which focused on RESPECT for September.

Kindergarteners had the opportunity to experience the first elementary field trip, visiting Van Buren Acres and picking out their very own pumpkins. Connection club meetings have commenced, Reading Buddies are in full swing, and we are finishing up our second Etna Running Club with over 75 students this session.



As our students continue to make impressive academic and social strides, we invite you to share in our journey through the Etna Facebook page.

KIRKERSVILLE ELEMENTARY



One of the first events we had this year was our time capsule reveal and community open house. During this event, Sue Keller did a fantastic job taking us down memory lane to reflect on the magic of Kirkersville. Afterwards, those that were part of the time capsule enjoyed exploring the many precious memories that were placed inside. Community members enjoyed viewing the contents as well as exploring the building before the night concluded. It was a wonderful time reminiscing about the past and celebrating the future of Kirkersville Elementary School.

Staff and students have enjoyed starting the year in our newly renovated building! If you haven't had a chance to stop by yet, make sure you attend an event throughout the year to see our beautiful building.



The last week of September we were able to hold our first PBIS assembly of the year. During this time we celebrated students for going above and beyond showing our character trait of the month. September's character trait was respect. Staff and students had a great time coming together as a school and celebrating their successes.



Our students are earning their Cool Cat Golden Tickets which are turned into the office every day. We choose our winners every Friday. Some of our classes have already taken their first field trips, and our librarian, Joanna Mahaffey, has shared with our school the live author and illustrator events put on by Scholastic Story Voice, including a live session with author Mike Lowery reading *Pizza Shark: A Fin-tastic Feast*.

As always, it's a perfect day to be a Cool Cat!

PATASKALA ELEMENTARY

The first quarter of the school year has been off to a fantastic start! What a better way to kick things off than our second annual Back to School Bash! Families got to enjoy lunch, games, face painting, and access to many free resources thanks to all of the community agencies who attended our event. Thank you to our families for the wonderful turnout and to our staff and PTO for all their time and hard work to make this event possible!

We introduced several new staff members this year! Kim White, Carson Sammons, Brenda Conner, Tia Rufo, and Jenna James have joined our amazing Pataskala staff! We are also happy to have Coco, our therapy dog, join us again this year!



In addition to academics, PBIS and SEL are a big focus in our day-to-day activities. Our SEL curriculum, Character Strong, focuses on a different character trait each month. So far this year, we have learned about respect and responsibility. We recognized students in each grade level for reading, math, citizenship, and most improved! We continue to celebrate students with PAX tootle notes and Paws of Pride for going above and beyond expectations!

Some events we've had so far this year include Curriculum Night, Watch DOGS kick off, Start With Hello, and a few field trips for different grade levels. We are happy to be back in the swing of things and look forward to what the rest of the school year has in store! As always, thank you for your support. We value your feedback! If you have any feedback about the first quarter of the school year please email kpiacquadio@laca.org.



WATKINS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



The first quarter of the school year at Watkins Intermediate has been filled with excitement and success. We kicked off the year bringing in our 4th graders for Supply Drop Off. Our Warrior Leaders helped lead our students and families around the building and find their new classes. We also had an incredible turnout at our WIS Open House. Families from across the district came out to do a scavenger hunt around the building and meet their students' teachers. The support and engagement we received from families continue to strengthen the bonds between home and school.

This year, we have welcomed our new school counselor, Ms. Tonski, who led the charge for Start with Hello Week. This initiative focused on building connections and fostering inclusivity among students. Through engaging activities and discussions, students learned how simple acts of kindness can make a big difference.

One of the most exciting experiences for our 5th graders was their time at camp, which was a huge success thanks to the help of student counselors from WMHS, Camp Oty'okwa counselors and other community support. This experience gave students the opportunity to bond with one another, challenge themselves, and create lasting memories. On the academic front, our 4th grade ELA teachers are implementing the 95% program to support literacy. This research-based program is designed to help students strengthen their reading skills, and we are already seeing positive progress.



We're also excited to announce the launch of our Watch DOGS volunteer program! This program brings father figures into the school to volunteer and spend time with students, creating meaningful connections and providing strong role models. Another exciting development this quarter was kicking off of our WIS School Clubs. Students had their first clubs day, where they were able to explore a wide range of activities outside of the normal curriculum, led by our amazing teachers. In partnership with the Driven Foundation, we've also started training a group of boys to enhance their leadership skills. This program is empowering our students to become strong, confident leaders who can positively influence their peers and the school community. Finally, our Connection Club groups have formed, allowing students to build meaningful relationships and connect with one another both inside and outside of school.

As we reflect on this incredible first quarter, we are filled with gratitude for the support from our staff, families, and community. We can't wait to see what the rest of the school year holds!



WATKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

WMS is excited to share some of our first quarter highlights. The year kicked off with our first PBIS (Positive Behavior Incentive System) event as all three grades competed in a building wide kickball tournament. Students earned an opportunity to participate, watch, or just enjoy some delicious treats from Kona Ice.

All middle school students also participated in "Start with Hello" week as a part of the school's effort to boost inclusivity amongst the student population. Student participation during our gold and green days were a sight to see! The building's peer collaboration program has continued to grow with over sixty students now working to support their peers both academically and socially. WMS prides itself on developing leaders that give back to their peer community!



The WMS counseling team has been hard at work establishing connections with all 1100 of our students. Each counselor has conducted minute meeting check-ins with all of the students to ascertain targeted levels of support.



We have a lot in the works for quarter two. We are excited to bring back our student clubs starting at the end of September. The sixth graders have a PTO sponsored dance coming up, their first of middle school, also at the end of October. We are excited to once again offer a college experience for each of our seventh graders. The trip will take place over four dates in October and November and give the students an on campus experience at OSU Newark and Central Ohio Technical College. More details to come as we start the second quarter!

WATKINS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



We've had a lot to celebrate at WMHS in the 1st quarter! We had a great time during Homecoming Week which culminated with a wonderful Homecoming Dance. Fun was had by all!

Students in Environmental Science for Agriculture got outside to calculate the biodiversity of our local ecosystem.



We celebrated our armed forces and first responders at our September 13 football game. Football players showed support with camouflage jerseys and each branch was recognized pregame. We even had an intro video from 2013 WMHS graduate Connor Severino from his United States Air Force HC130 cargo plane!



Students attended COTCs 2nd Annual Manufacturing Expo and had a chance for hands on tours and conversations with college representatives and local businesses. They even ran into a few WMHS alumni who are studying at OSU Newark and COTC!





Calendar Highlights

First Days of School

August
15-20



Last Days of School

May
22 & 28

Graduation

May
17



Holidays & Breaks



-Thanksgiving
Break

November 25 - 29

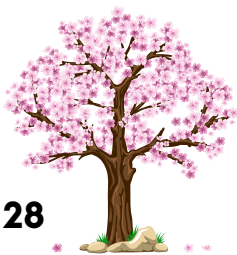


Winter Break

December 23 - January 3

Spring
Break

March - 24 - 28



No School for Students

- September 2 - Labor Day
- September 23 - Waiver Day
- October 18 - Staff Development
- October 25 - Student Oriented Success Day
- December 2 - Waiver Day
- January 17 - Staff Development
- January 20 - Martin Luther King Day

- February 14 - Trade Day for Staff
- February 17 - President's Day
- March 21 - Staff Development
- March 31 - Waiver Day
- April 18 - Good Friday
- May 12 - KINDERGARTEN ONLY
- May 26 - Memorial Day

Ends of Quarters

October
17

January
16

March
20

May
28

For the full calendar,
visit our website:
swl.k12.oh.us



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