

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

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



Dr. Kasey Perkins

Superintendent

Calamity Day Information

The winter season has arrived, bringing the possibility of two-hour delays and calamity days. Here's an overview of how decisions are made to delay or cancel school and what you need to keep in mind:

- Our team begins monitoring weather conditions well in advance of a predicted storm. On mornings with weather concerns, multiple staff members are out driving the roads as early as 3:30 a.m., assessing real-time conditions across the District. Decisions to close or delay are not based solely on forecasts, temperatures, or a specific amount of snow. Instead, each situation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, with road conditions being a key factor.
- It's important to understand that while roads near your home may appear clear, rural or less-traveled roads in our 65-square-mile District might be unsafe for buses or student drivers. We carefully assess conditions throughout the entire area before making a decision.
- We also rely on input from local government agencies and collaborate with neighboring districts to make the most informed choices. Decisions to close school will only be made the evening before if weather conditions at that time warrant it, as forecasts often differ from reality. Additionally, decisions are not made in the middle of the night, as road crews are actively working to treat and improve conditions during that time.
- Typically, decisions to delay or close school will be communicated by either 9:30 p.m. the night before or 5:30 a.m. the day of the potential weather event. This timeline allows our transportation team to prepare buses and our facilities staff to ensure buildings are safe and accessible.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we prioritize the safety of our students and staff during the winter months.

12 Days of Giving

Our elementary schools enthusiastically participated in the 12 Days of Giving, a meaningful initiative to support local food pantries with specific needs. Each building contributed significantly, collecting many items to help families in our community during the holidays. Students and staff embraced the spirit of giving, motivated by various festive holiday spirit days. Together, they collaborated to carefully pack and prepare the donations for delivery. The 12 Days of Giving continues to be a cherished tradition, teaching students the true meaning of philanthropy and the joy of helping others during the holiday season.

Eco Warriors

A dedicated high school club, the Eco Warriors, has spent the past two years planning, writing grants, and collaborating with various organizations to create an eco-friendly environment on our campus in support of healthy air initiatives. Through their fundraising efforts, including the sale of engraved pavers and generous donations, the Eco Warriors have successfully purchased and planted a mix of mature and young trees across key areas of the campus.

These trees provide numerous benefits, including wind and noise reduction, improved air quality, and enhanced aesthetics for our campus. This hardworking group broke ground on their paver project earlier this fall and has already completed phases one and two of their initiative, planting over 60 trees along Rt. 40 and Smoke Rd.

The ongoing dedication and efforts of the Eco Warriors are leaving a lasting legacy, ensuring our campus continues to thrive for generations to come.

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

Dr. Kasey Perkins, Superintendent



SUPERINTENDENT DR. KASEY PERKINS

COMMUNITY COMPASS

The District's Future Direction

BUILDING PERMITS

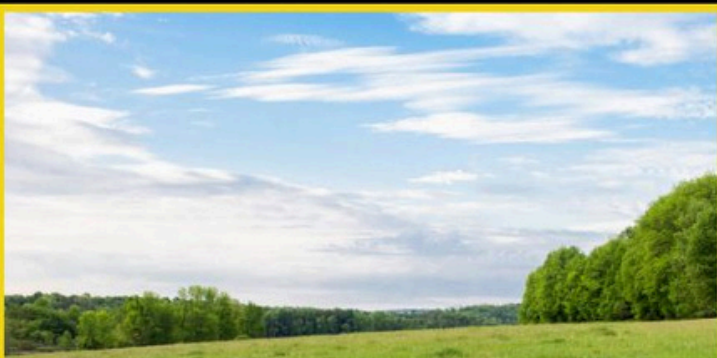
Year	FAIRFIELD COUNTY		LIBERTY TOWNSHIP	LICKING COUNTY	
	Single-Family	Multi-Family	Single-Family	Single-Family	Multi-Family
2000	817	97	48	1,014	121
2001	796	18	43	1,038	202
2002	967	321	38	1,257	496
2003	1,433	120	43	1,106	219
2004	1,023	242	43	967	202
2005	810	182	39	767	320
2006	576	28	27	529	165
2007	375	47	12	370	105
2008	212	0	10	228	67
2009	188	0	10	209	16
2010	188	8	10	300	48
2011	155	16	3	281	49
2012	223	303	10	255	17
2013	334	45	21	285	5
2014	303	46	8	230	18
2015	338	4	18	269	11
2016	376	78	19	291	0
2017	442	229	15	259	4
2018	565	117	16	251	10
2019	497	54	18	257	5
2020	633	111	26	289	3
2021	667	208	26	361	2
2022	572	0	23	249	2
2023	439	0	20	180	0
2024*	69	0	2	35	0

Source: SOCDs Building Permits Database (*preliminary through February 2024)

DID YOU KNOW?

THE NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED ACROSS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS READILY AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AND HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT. THIS HELPS DETERMINE THE STUDENT POTENTIAL FOR EACH SCHOOL YEAR. THIS INCLUDES SINGLE AND MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING PERMITS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT. ALL INFORMATION IS INCLUDED THROUGH FEBRUARY OF 2024.

UNDEVELOPED LAND



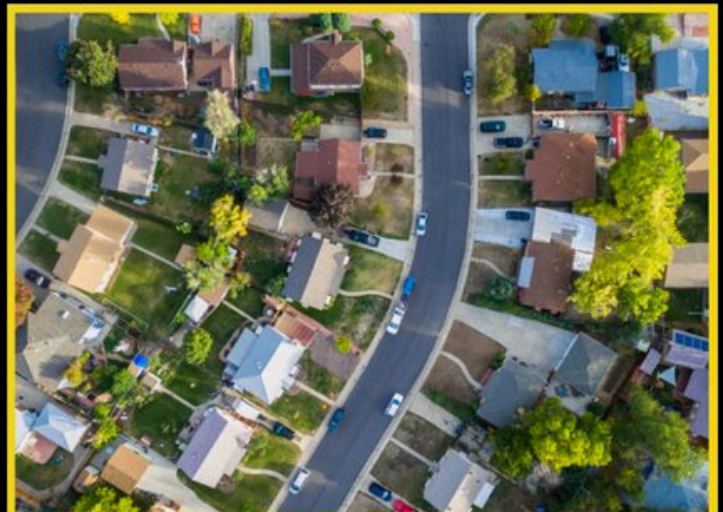
12,779 acres of undeveloped land are in our school community.

5,738 ACRES OR 2,369 POTENTIAL HOUSING LOTS ADJACENT TO AN EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

7,041 ACRES OR 3,521 POTENTIAL HOUSING LOTS NOT ADJACENT TO EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

DHITAL ESTATES

IS CURRENTLY UNDER PRELIMINARY REVIEW IN HARRISON TOWNSHIP AS A NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT. IT WOULD INCLUDE 19 HOUSING UNITS AT COMPLETION.



Mr. Michael Tanchevski

Assistant Superintendent



I want to extend my gratitude to all the students, families, and dedicated staff of SWL Local Schools for the support and commitment you have shown throughout the first semester. Your collective hard work and enthusiasm have played a vital role in our many achievements, both in the classroom and through our extracurricular activities.



As we eagerly transition into the second semester, I want to highlight the crucial importance of safety, especially as we navigate the winter months ahead. We must continue to practice the necessary safety precautions during our commutes to and from school and various events. By doing so, we can create a safe environment that builds academic success and growth for everyone. Together, let's strive to make this semester not only a success academically but also a time when we fully engage in extracurricular interests that enrich our school experience.



Focusing on the well-being of our school and community makes us proud to be Warriors.



Mr. Daniel Davis

Director of Student Services



Giving Students A Voice

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) are part of the specialized team that supports many of our students with disabilities. SLPs work to assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, and social communication disorders. In addition, SLPs provide training and education to families, caregivers, and other professionals. SWL is fortunate to have many highly skilled SLPs serving our students.

One of the most life-changing parts of an SLP's work is giving students a voice, specifically nonverbal students. Recently, two district SLPs, Kayla Williams and Chris McMaken, held a class for parents who have students with complex speech and language needs. These students are either communicating through an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device or are in the process of trialing a device. The class reviewed the basics of AAC, how language develops with and alongside the use of a device, language acquisition steps, and ways to incorporate AAC devices at home through modeling and prompting. It was the first training the district has offered that has focused on inviting families who are using AAC devices.

"What stood out to me after connecting a student to a device is the sense of freedom and wonder that they experience. They are not tied to being next to someone in order to communicate; once the system clicks in their minds, there is a spark that happens that is almost magical. It is the feeling of all the pieces being fit into place and the parts are working towards a common goal" – Chris

"When students get their device, they finally have a voice to share their wants, needs, thoughts, and ideas. Watching a child make the connection between an icon on a device and a real-life item brings the same joy as a child saying "mama" or "dada" for the first time. With access to a device, I've seen joy and connection increase, frustration decrease, and the ability for a child to show us how much they truly know."
– Kayla

SWL Speech-Pathologist Team

Brenda Conner, Kelsey Dailey, Lauren Greer, Robin Jacobson, Megan Lewis, Keli Massie, Chris McMaken, Kayla Williams





Mrs. Melissa Ladowitz

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Believe it or not, it's time to start planning for state testing in the spring. We ask that families do their best to avoid scheduling appointments and trips in April so that students can take state mandated tests on schedule. This helps ensure that students have the best testing environment and avoids missing class for make-up testing.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, February 6

Thursday, February 20

Reach out to the school to schedule.

APRIL 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	WAIVER DAY	1	2	3 5th Grade ELA 6th Grade ELA 7th Grade ELA 8th Grade ELA	4 5th Grade ELA	5
6	7	8 4th Grade ELA 6th Grade ELA 7th Grade ELA 8th Grade ELA ELA II	9 4th Grade ELA SWLDA 6-8 ELA	10 SWLDA 6-8 ELA ELA II	11	12
13	14	15 3rd Grade ELA 5th Grade Math 6th Grade Math 7th Grade Math 8th Grade Math Biology	16 5th Grade Math	17 3rd Grade ELA 6th Grade Math 7th Grade Math 8th Grade Math US History Government	18	19
20	21	22 4th Grade Math 8th Grade Sci Algebra I Geometry Integrated Math	23 3rd Grade Math 4th Grade Math SWLDA 6-8 Math	24 3rd Grade Math 5th Grade Sci 8th Grade Sci SWLDA 8th Sci HS Retesters	25 5th Grade Sci	26
27	28	29	30			

Kindergarten Registration & Screening

1.



Gather Required Documents

- parent/guardian ID
- student's birth certificate
- student's complete immunization records
- two proofs of residency
- custody documents (if applicable)

2.



Register Online - February 1

- Go to: www.swl-oh.finalforms.com
- Complete the forms and upload the required documents.

3.



Attend Kindergarten Screening - May 12

After your registration is complete, you will be assigned a time slot for screening on May 12th. Screening allows our staff to meet students and gather baseline data on what the students already know so that teachers may begin planning for students' individual needs.

Important Dates

- February 1, 2025 - Kindergarten Registration Opens
- May 12, 2025 - Kindergarten Screening

Questions? Email

SWLKindergarten@swl.k12.oh.us

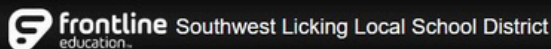
Mrs. Tonya Sherburne

Director of Human Resources



On March 17, we will host the annual Licking County Education Job Fair . This will be held at Watkins Memorial High School from 4pm - 8pm. Registration details will be forthcoming. Interested candidates should monitor our district website and social media accounts for additional information. All of the school districts in Licking County will be in attendance and interviewing candidates for teaching positions for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please visit our district website's Human Resources Department page to view and apply for all job postings. We always accept applications for substitute teachers, bus drivers, and educational aides.



Vacancies

Categories Locations

Food Services (1)
Maintenance/Custodial (1)
Secretarial/Clerical (1)
Student Support Services (2)
Substitute (1)
Support Staff (2)
Transportation (2)

All Jobs ▶

FMLA notice



Join the Warrior Family!

If you are a passionate educator, administrator, or support staff member who values **relationships** and believes in the importance of **academics, athletics** and the **arts**, we encourage you to apply for a position at **Southwest Licking Schools!**

In order to be considered for a position, you need to complete our online application process. Please follow the directions below. Your application will remain in active status for one school year.

External Applicants



[Start an application for employment](#)

[Use passcodes sent to me](#)

[Log in ▶](#)

Internal Applicants ONLY



Internal applicants only.

[View internal positions](#)

[Submit as a Current Employee](#)

[Log in ▶](#)





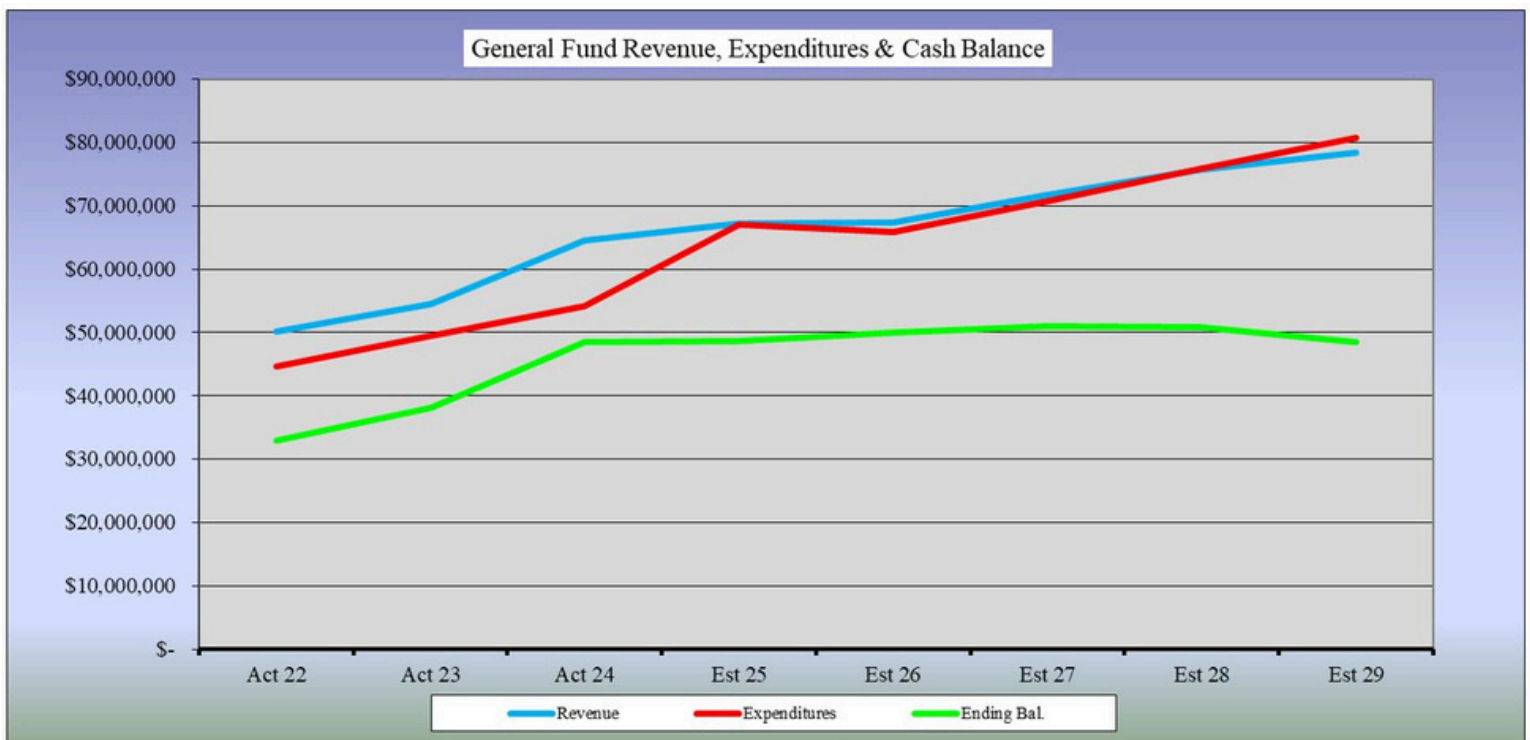
TREASURER UPDATE

Richard Jones, Treasurer

The Board of Education approved a new five year forecast at the November 2024 Board meeting. Below, you can view the actual general fund revenue, expenditures and cash balance for FY22-FY24 and estimated general fund revenue, expenditures and cash balance for FY25-FY29. Starting in FY28, the District is projecting expenditures exceeding revenue resulting in a reduction of the cash balance. This “negative cash flow”, where expenditures exceeds revenue, is something the District will monitor in future five-year forecasts.

General Fund Revenue, Expenditures, and Ending Cash Balance Actual FY22-24 and Estimated FY25-29

The graph captures in one snapshot the operating scenario facing the district over the next few years.



For more information and the assumptions used in the five year forecast, please visit <https://reports.education.ohio.gov/report/finance-forecast-submissions>.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Robert Jennell, Project Manager



Pataskala South Fork Elementary is on track and progressing for completion this year. 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.

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 beginning of this year has gone very smoothly. We continue to appreciate everyone's patience as we deal with occasional bus driver and bus monitor shortages. We are currently transporting 2,935 students daily and travel approximately 3,848 miles each day. In addition to transporting students safely to and from school each day, we have also completed 450 additional trips such as field trips or extracurricular trips so far this school year.

With the weather changing, please make sure students are dressed appropriately, preferably with colors that can be seen easily during the dark mornings. Also, monitor the local news and our school's website for school announcements such as school closings and delays.

We need your help with school bus safety awareness. We encourage you to have conversations with your children about being safe at the bus stop, which includes staying in the safety zone until the bus comes to a complete stop, watching the driver to motion students to cross the road and enter the bus, and not horseplaying while waiting for the bus. We would also like you to remind them to behave appropriately while riding the school bus. Our drivers are dealing with road conditions and other motorists. We do not want them distracted by students that are misbehaving on the bus.

Finally, we want to remind all community members that we continue to have an issue with 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

The second semester has started at the SWL Digital Academy. We currently have 75 students enrolled, but it is not too late. If you have a student that would thrive learning at their own pace and own time, I encourage you to consider enrolling them in the Digital Academy. You can do that by going to the SWL school district website, choosing SWL Digital Academy, and then clicking the link for the 2nd Semester Application link on the right hand side of the website. Another option is to use the QR code below to jump to the application.

For our students and their families that are enrolled, I encourage everyone to establish daily routines to make sure you stay on track with both your coursework and the state-required hours. Remember that each school day students must login to Edmentum and be working on their coursework and submitting guided notes. Students should also be using IXL each day to review core content. If you need assistance, reach out to Mr. Brown, the director, at rbrown@laca.org. He is able to unlock post-tests, reset tests, and answer any other questions that you might have.



FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Cindy Pickering, Food Service Supervisor

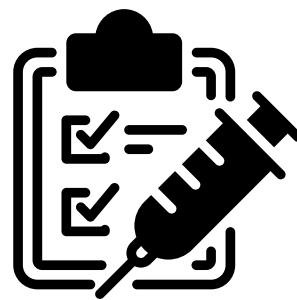


- The menus for Jan-May 2025 have been placed on the SWL website on the Food Service Department page.
- Some of the most popular menu items remain: walking tacos, chicken tenders, pizza, and orange chicken with rice.
- Eat as many colorful fruits and vegetables as you can! School meals offer fruits & veggies daily, with a variety of legumes, dark green, red, & orange vegetables served over the week.
- Drink more water and avoid sugar sweetened beverages such as sports drinks or soda. School meals offer three varieties of milk daily.
- Make getting ready for the school day that much easier with School Breakfast. Starting the day with a well-balanced breakfast contributes to students' ability to perform well in the classroom.
- 40% of SWL students have qualified for free/reduced meals. If you have not yet applied, please visit www.myschoolapps.com.
- Money may be added to a student's meal account by using any of the following ways: Pay with debit/credit card on-line at www.myschoolbucks.com. Send cash/check with your student in an envelope marked with their name and indicate "lunch money". Guardian may bring cash/check to the SWL District Office or to their school office.
- We look forward to serving your students for the 2nd half of the school year.

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.

CLINIC UPDATE

Tirzah Hammond, School Nurse



Attention families of current **6th** and **11th** grade students!

Note these important immunization requirements for the coming school year:

- 7th grade requirement - One dose of Tdap and one dose of Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccine
- 12th grade requirement - Second dose of Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccine

Documentation of the above vaccines must be on file by the first day of school. Documents can be submitted to Final Forms by accessing the Parent Portal on the SWL website. If your student has not yet received the required vaccine(s), please make an appointment with your health provider today!

Attendance Matters!



ATTENDANCE

Jeff Severino, Truancy Consultant

As we start into our second semester, please keep track of attendance issues. The Attendance Office will always send letters when your student hits certain thresholds to help keep you up to date on your student's attendance. Families can also check Progress Book to monitor attendance, as well. Note that when a student comes in tardy, those minutes will start to add up and count towards the attendance thresholds.

What are attendance thresholds?

They are absence hours that your student may reach which triggers a letter to be sent.

- **Excessive Absences Threshold** - 38 hours in one school month or 65 hours in a school year of excused and unexcused abs.
- **Habitual Truancy Threshold** - these are unexcused absences - 30+ hours consecutive, or 42+ hours in one school month, or 72+ hours in one school year. We will need to develop an Attendance Intervention Plan (AIP) to help with attendance.

I hope you understand the importance of attending school. If you ever have any questions about attendance, please call me at 740-403-3401 or email me at jseverino@laca.org.



ATHLETICS UPDATE

Jake Perkins, Director of Athletics

- Make sure to follow the Warriors on Twitter/X at: WM_Warriors
- Visit our website: <https://wmhs.swl.k12.oh.us/athletics>
- 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>



Winter Sports Varsity Teams



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

This is the ELC's second year participating in the Warrior Mentor program through Watkins Memorial High School. We have two dedicated mentors who give 45 minutes of their day every day to work with the District's littlest learners. We adore Miss Emily (Whitmer) and Miss Shleby (Lott). When the mentors are in class they are put to work. The mentors help the students in small groups, assist in large groups, participate in sign language lessons, encourage fine and gross motor skill development, and engage with the children during work time. The mentors add a layer of support in the preschool classroom by leading by example, providing structure, and engaging with the children in a rich language environment. We will be sad to see them leave at the end of the year but are very proud of their accomplishments as they graduate high school.

Miss Emily at the art table with a student using watercolors.

It was color week and these friends all wore brown.
Snack time is a great chance to be social and Miss Shelby is facilitating conversations.



Gross motor play is a big part of our day. Even when it is cold outside, we are moving and grooving in the gym. Miss Shleby is leading by example on how to line up on the wall to exit the gym.

Miss Emily is participating in a sign language lesson led by Ms. Jenni.

ETNA ELEMENTARY

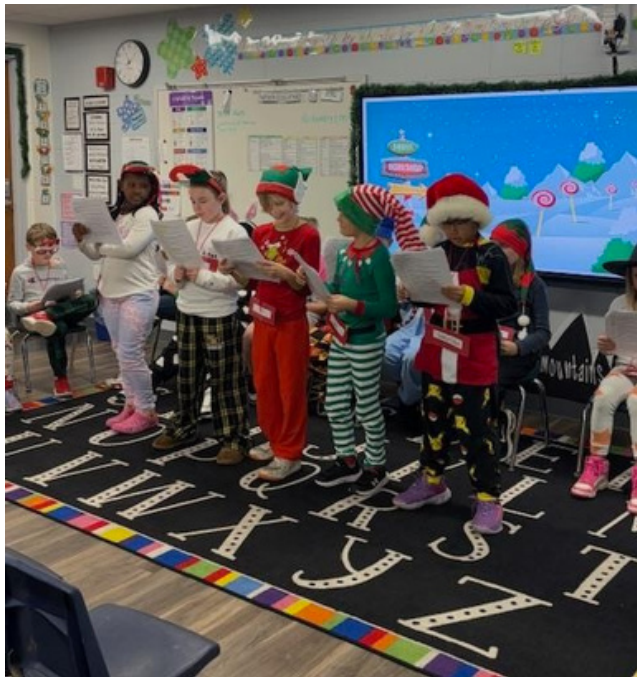


As we wrap up the second quarter, we reflect on the exciting and enriching experiences that have brought our school community closer together. Kindergarten kicked off the holiday season with a heartwarming Friendsgiving celebration, fostering gratitude and connection among our youngest learners.

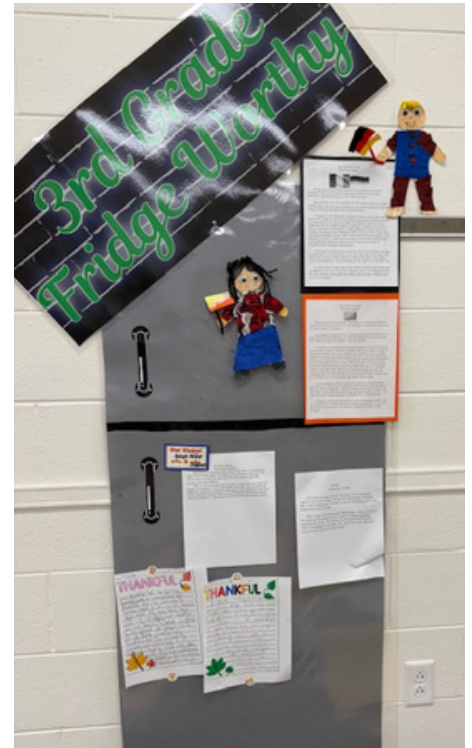
Across grade levels, programs like Reading Buddies paired older and younger students to cultivate a love for reading and teamwork, while Connection Clubs offered engaging opportunities for creativity, exploration, and leadership. The Character Strong assemblies emphasized important values like kindness, perseverance, and empathy, inspiring our students to make positive choices every day.



Our hallways and cafeteria have been bursting with student achievements! The “Refrigerators of Excellence” proudly displayed exemplary writing samples, highlighting the hard work and creativity of our budding authors.



The second-grade vocal program was a shining moment in our holiday performances, where students shared their musical talents with family and friends. Multiple grade levels performed reader's theater holiday productions for families and peers. These performances brought joy to all who attended, showcasing the dedication of our students and the support of our amazing staff.



It is impossible to highlight all the fantastic activities and learning that are occurring daily at Etna. We encourage you to follow the Etna Facebook page to see more highlights. We post multiple times a week.



KIRKERSVILLE ELEMENTARY

As they say, time flies when you are having fun and it is hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year! Between field trips, concerts, PBIS assemblies, and all the learning activities happening daily it has been an exciting quarter for the staff and students here at Kirkersville Elementary School.

If you are having difficulty getting into the holiday spirit, just go visit an elementary school! There really is nothing quite like it. December brought all kinds of excitement around here as our friendly Kirkersville elf, Candy Cane, made quite a few appearances this year. If you haven't seen her shenanigans around Kirkersville Elementary, please follow us on facebook to see what she was up to and also all the other exciting happenings here at Kirkersville Elementary School.



November seems so long ago now but in early November our third graders had the opportunity to visit Pataskala City Hall to learn all about our local government. Students enjoyed taking part in a mock city council meeting. Students also had the opportunity to tour the police department. Meanwhile our kindergarteners enjoyed celebrating the 50th day of school in early November. Staff had a great time transforming their classrooms, themselves, and their activities back in time to the 50's for our students to experience the fun. We can't forget about the amazing performances of our second and third graders during their Goal! and Yee Haw musicals. Great job to all of them and Mrs. Haynes for putting the show together for us to enjoy.



Even though lots of memories were made, learning still remained at the forefront of what we do here each and every day. We are excited to continue seeing all the growth our students are making and will continue to make as we head into the third quarter.

November also started our very first Cool Cats and Kittens meet up. One of our staff committees has been working hard to create this monthly opportunity for students from second and third grade to be paired up with kindergarten and first graders. Mrs. Kennedy's first graders and Ms. Meier's third graders did a trial run in November where they paired up their students to read together and make bracelets. They had a GREAT time! At the end of December, all classes did an activity with their partner class and sat with their partner during our December PBIS assembly. We are looking forward to seeing all the opportunities this brings for our students!



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

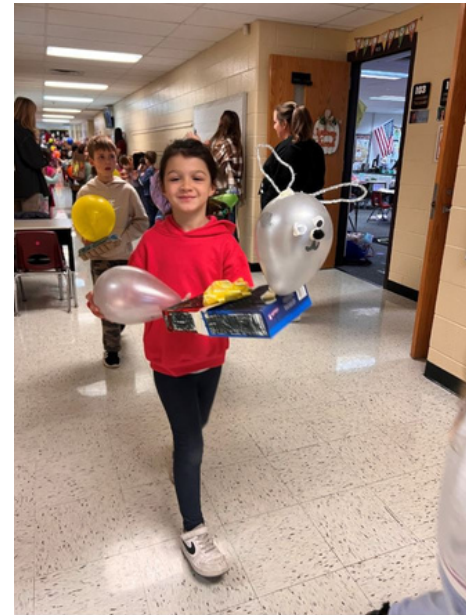
PATASKALA ELEMENTARY

January is here! The holidays have come and gone and we are ready to take on the second half of the school year! Check out some of the highlights and pictures from this past quarter.



Some activities and presentations students enjoyed this quarter include: Macy's Day Float Parade, Doll Museum, read aloud and author visit from Maria Manzo, field trip to The Works , Holidays Around the World, and a caroling performance by the Watkins Memorial High School Choir, to name a few.

Under the direction of our music teacher, Mr. West, kindergarten and 1st grade students performed a fantastic winter concert. Students enjoyed being on the big stage at the high school auditorium!



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. This quarter we focused on gratitude and empathy. We continue to celebrate students with PAX tootle notes and Paws of Pride for going above and beyond expectations!



3rd grade Lion Leaders have taken on many responsibilities. They assist with morning announcements, making slides for the TVs, give building tours to our Watch DOGs and meet monthly to work on leadership skills.



WATKINS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



The second quarter at Watkins Intermediate was packed with engaging learning opportunities and meaningful community connections. In the classroom, students excelled in Bridges Math, Humanities, and targeted reading instruction, strengthening foundational skills while exploring new content. Hands-on learning was a highlight, as Licking County Water & Soil brought fossils to life through engaging presentations led by Shawn Toy, and 4th-grade students extended their Social Studies standards with a field trip to Blacklick Woods. These experiences connected classroom learning to the real world, sparking curiosity and excitement among our students.

Our 5th graders demonstrated leadership and innovation at the WIS Winter Bazaar. It was a standout event, where students collaborated to create and sell products, raising over \$3,000 to support The Eli Effect.. Additionally, a group of 5th-grade boys completed a leadership program through the Driven Foundation, guided by former Ohio State football player Tyler Everett, learning essential skills to lead with confidence and integrity. A few of the boys presented what they learned at our November SWL Board of Education Meeting. Meanwhile, three ROX (Ruling Our Experiences) groups continue empowering girls to build self-confidence and leadership, as well as groups led by our school counselor and social worker. These programs provided invaluable opportunities for students to grow beyond academics.



Our Watch DOGS program continues to thrive, bringing father figures into the school to volunteer and make meaningful connections with students. Additionally, we introduced a new parent volunteer initiative called Lunch Bunch, where parents join students during lunch to foster positive interactions and build community. This program has quickly become a hit, demonstrating the power of collaboration in creating a supportive school environment.

The season ended on a high note with our festive 12 Days Countdown to Winter Break. Students and staff enjoyed themed dress-up days and were treated to music performances by the high school orchestra and choir at WHMS. These joyful moments brought our school community closer together, rounding out an exceptional quarter filled with learning, leadership, and celebration. We are excited to carry this momentum into the next quarter!



WATKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

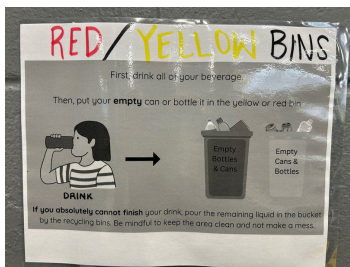
As we immerse ourselves into 2025, WMS students and staff are continuing to strive towards fulfilling our building vision. We had a tremendous second quarter but we have so much more to aim for during the third leg of our school year.

Watkins Middle School has continued to develop community partners to provide our students with exposure opportunities as they keep an eye to the future. During October and November our seventh graders traveled to the OSU/COTC Newark campus to gain a local college experience. Students learned about two and four year degrees as well as the future job market opportunities in Licking County. Internally, our Environmental Sustainability classes partnered with the Southwest Licking Food Service department to grow organic produce to be served in our lunch lines. Both opportunities were a hit with the students!



With the building nearing a population of 1200 students we aim to try and maintain a sense of community within the building. Students are provided opportunities for ownership over the building in the form of groups like the Student Council. Student Council meets several times a month and has worked to recognize all students in the building in some capacity. Our Peer Collaboration program has continued to expand as our students serve as positive peer mentors with other students in the building. Likewise, our staff has worked hard to bring back student driven clubs each month. These multi-grade, student interest-driven initiatives give students the opportunity to meet students from other pockets of the school that they normally would not come into contact with. They form positive relationships with other students by participating in common interest activities.

During the second quarter our students have looked for opportunities to improve the building, community, and world around them. Mrs. Holbrook's homeroom collected six boxes of school supplies that were sent to victims of the horrible storms that ravaged the south and east coast earlier in the year. Our students have also continued to push our building wide recycling program to new heights and instituted a cafeteria composting program to reduce waste.



As exciting as the second quarter has been, we are very excited about what the third quarter has in store. We will start the new year with a building wide project based design challenge where students will be asked to get in the entrepreneurial spirit. Our counselors are hard at work preparing for our prosocial educational programming centered around safety and violence prevention for the month of February. In March our eighth graders will travel to C-TEC to gain valuable insights into high school opportunities centered around career readiness. Be on the lookout for information on upcoming dances, incentive activities, and other awesome news!

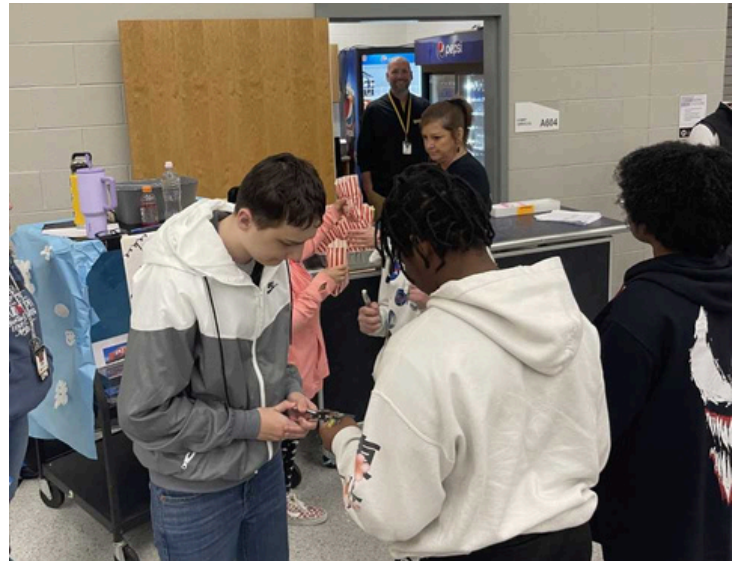


WATKINS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Celebrating Creativity and Collaboration in Physics

This quarter, Mrs. Rahm's physics students showcased their ingenuity and teamwork during an exciting midterm design challenge. Students partnered with randomly assigned lab mates to build functioning rubber band cars. The challenge didn't stop there! They also calculated the static and kinetic friction of their creations, applying key physics concepts in a hands-on setting. To wrap up, students answered five thought-provoking reflection questions about their design process. This activity not only tested their knowledge of physics but also honed their communication skills and ability to conduct research. It was a true engineering experience that inspired innovation and collaboration among the students.



Ultimate Warrior Incentives: Recognizing Excellence

The Ultimate Warrior program continues to energize WMHS by rewarding students who demonstrate excellence in academics, punctuality, and positive attitudes. This quarter's incentives included:

- A free drink from the coffee truck... just the pick-me-up students needed!
- Popcorn and hot chocolate served during lunches... perfect for the cooler months.
- Exciting raffles with fantastic prizes!

Students earn Ultimate Warrior cards throughout the quarter by consistently meeting expectations and spreading positive vibes. These cards can be punched and exchanged for prizes, keeping the momentum strong all year long.

This quarter, an impressive number of students earned recognition through the program:

- 508 students earned white cards.
- 279 students earned black cards.
- 47 students earned gold cards.

We're proud of our Warriors for their dedication and enthusiasm—keep up the great work!





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



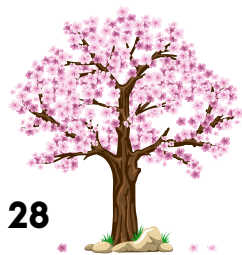
Winter Break

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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