

CENTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER ACCENT

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Centerville Schools receives top rating on Ohio School Report Card

Centerville City Schools earned top marks on the 2024 Ohio School Report Card, receiving an overall five-star rating for the second consecutive year.

“This accomplishment reflects the hard work and dedication of our entire school community and showcases our commitment to empowering, challenging, and supporting every student to grow every day,” said Superintendent Jon Wesney.

The district also received five-star ratings for Progress, Gap Closing, and Graduation Rate, along with four stars in Achievement and Early Literacy.

“We are thrilled to receive a five-star rating again this year,” said Cherie Colopy, director of elementary curriculum. “We are grateful for our teachers and support staff who work tirelessly to



Centerville Schools once again earned an overall rating of five stars – the highest possible mark school districts can achieve.

help students move forward.”

Director of Secondary Curriculum Adam Ciarlariello added, “This achievement highlights the passion and care our staff puts into meeting the needs of every student. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team serving over 8,200 learners.”

The Ohio Department of Education & Workforce emphasizes that report cards provide a valuable tool for guiding school improvement. Visit education.ohio.gov for

more information about the state report card rating system and its five key components.



View Report Card: centerville.k12.oh.us/about-us/report-card

Superintendent encourages community conversation

Centerville-Washington Township residents can learn more about their local public schools during events this spring.

The initiative, “Elks Connect: Black & Gold Conversations for a Stronger School Community,” was launched by Superintendent Jon Wesney last

summer to strengthen ties between the school district and the community.

“The goal is simple – to have open conversations with our community members,” Wesney said. “We’ve held more than 50 events over the past six months, and it’s important to continue that collaboration.”

Events will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a brief school tour, followed by a focused discussion with an opportunity for questions. Future dates will be added to the district website.

- ▶ Feb. 26 - 6:30 p.m. at Normandy Elementary (*Topic: School Staffing*)
- ▶ April 23 - 6:30 p.m. at Watts Middle School (*Topic: College & Career Readiness*)

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With November levy passage, what's next for the district?



Superintendent Jon Wesney shares an update about what's next for the district.

I'd like to start with a heartfelt thank you to our community for passing

Issue 31 in November, which will help us continue to provide comprehensive supports, services, and programming, pursue further implementation of our strategic plan, and keep up with rising costs related to our day-to-day operating expenses.

We are excited to keep moving ahead with a forward-thinking and fiscally responsible plan, and that means we will be relying on our community to share their vision for the future of our schools.

In January, about a dozen staff and community members joined me for the first Elks Connect chat of the new year. We had a great discussion about what's next for the district, touching on school funding, our strategic plan, facilities, and administrator changes. I'd like to share a brief summary of that discussion here.

School Funding

School districts like Centerville are in the difficult position of having to ask taxpayers for more funding every few years because of the way schools are funded in Ohio. District leaders will continue to do our part to advocate for more state funding whenever we meet with our state representatives. In the meantime, we encourage community members to research this issue and learn more about citizen-led initiatives in our area and across the state.

Strategic Plan

Although much of our focus over the past year and a half has been on securing our finances, our strategic plan has continued to guide our work in and out

of the classroom. The strategic plan was adopted prior to the 2022-23 school year, and each summer, we review the previous year's action plan and create new goals for the coming school year. We look forward to renewing our focus on strategic plan initiatives.

Facilities

Our school buildings are aging, so we have to begin talking about long-term needs. No plans for extensive facility projects have been made at this time, but we know school construction projects can take 5-10 years to complete. In 10 years, all of our buildings (except Primary Village South) will be more than 60 years old and Magsig Middle School will be 111 years old! Any decisions about major facility improvements and/or new construction will involve community input.

Administrator Changes

We anticipate a large turnover among our administrators over the next few years. Three administrators have already announced their retirement – our athletic director retired in December, and two principals will retire at the end of this school year. About a third of our administrators will be eligible for retirement within the next five years.

Compared to the state average, each of our administrators takes care of about 100 more students than their counterparts in other districts. We have one principal at each of our K-8 buildings, with no assistant principals. There are currently six principals at Centerville High School and the School of Possibilities for more than 2,600 students. As administrators retire, we must find the right replacements who are willing to take on these challenging expectations.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming community meetings!

What taxpayers need to know about the levy

The Centerville-Washington Township community passed a 3.9-mill operating levy during the November election. Here's what taxpayers need to know:

- ▶ This levy will cost an additional \$11.40 a month per \$100,000 of home value as determined by the county auditor. The new rate became effective in January.
- ▶ The levy will generate \$11.2 million per year for the district's ongoing operational expenses. The district will begin collecting that revenue this year.
- ▶ The additional revenue raised by the new levy strengthens the district's financial position for the next 5-6 years.
- ▶ These additional funds will help the district preserve the comprehensive supports, services, and programming currently in place, pursue further implementation of the strategic plan, and keep up with rising costs.
- ▶ The proposed reduction plan that was approved by the school board last September will not be implemented.
- ▶ We will continue to include our community as we plan for the future. Check out our upcoming Elks Connect events listed on page 1 and watch the district website for future community meetings.

Scan these codes with your device's camera to access more resources:



Strategic plan information



Master facility planning



Financial resources



Did you know ... All of our school buildings, except Primary Village South, are more than 50 years old. Magsig Middle School turned 100 last year!

Special education services in our schools



Becky Furbay, the director of special education, shares how the district strives to support every student.

At Centerville City Schools, we believe that every student deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our Special Education Department is dedicated to providing individualized support and services that address the unique learning needs of our students.

Through specialized instruction, speech and language therapy, occupational and physical therapy, mental health and behavioral assistance, and support from our special education coordinators and principals, we work to create meaningful learning experiences that foster both academic success and personal growth.

Our team of highly trained intervention specialists, therapists, and support staff collaborate closely with teachers and families to ensure students receive the best possible support. We develop Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) tailored to each student's strengths and challenges, focusing on building skills that will help them thrive in school and beyond.

Centerville City Schools offers a comprehensive continuum of special education services designed to meet the diverse needs of our students. Every building within the district is staffed with dedicated intervention specialists who provide targeted support and instruction. Additionally, we offer a

variety of specialized classrooms at every grade level for students who benefit from a smaller, more structured learning environment tailored to their individual needs. Our ongoing commitment is to provide high-quality instruction and inclusive support within the general education setting, ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

The Special Education Department recognizes the importance of strong school-family partnerships in supporting student success. In addition to our educational programs, our Parent Mentor Program provides families with valuable guidance and resources to navigate the special education process, fostering a strong connection between home and school.

We are also excited to introduce the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), a newly formed group composed of parents, intervention specialists, and administrators from across the district. This council will serve as a collaborative forum for sharing insights and enhancing special education services. We look forward to hosting our first parent engagement opportunity this spring to share more about our initiatives and gather valuable feedback.

At Centerville City Schools, we are committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment where all students feel valued and empowered. If you have questions about the services available or need assistance, our Special Education team is here to help!



Middle and high school intervention specialists collaborate during a professional in-service in October.

Centerville welcomes new athletic director



Hon

Centerville athletes, coaches, and fans are being greeted by a new face this spring as Brandon Hon takes over as the district's athletic director.

Hon most recently served as the assistant athletic director and head track and field coach at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati. He also coached at the University of Illinois, Texas A&M University, and Florida State University.

"Centerville High School has a well-established history of success in athletics and a tradition of excellence academically," Hon said. "Elk Pride permeates through the words and attitudes of every staff member I encounter. CHS has already proven to be a place where high athletic and academic achievement can be developed, and I am confident we will continue to raise the bar competitively while enhancing the support and experience of our students."

The athletic director position was posted in October, and a committee interviewed 10 internal and external applicants prior to making its selection. Hon replaced Rob Dement, who retired after serving as the athletic director for 13 years.

Centerville's athletic director oversees a thriving program that includes nearly 2,300 student-athletes participating on more than 50 high school and middle school teams. The district consistently has teams and individual athletes competing at a state and national level and has won the all-league sports trophy for 47 of the past 48 years. More information about Centerville's Athletic Department can be found online at www.goelksathletics.com.



Did you know ... Attendance matters! Students are more likely to focus, participate, and learn in classrooms if they feel safe (emotionally and physically), connected, supported, and believe they can learn and achieve.



Roer to serve as school board president

During an organizational meeting on Jan. 9, the Centerville Board of Education announced that Dr. David Roer would serve as president in 2025, and John Doll will be vice president. Other board members include Allison Durnbaugh, Dr. Amanda Graf, and Megan Sparks.

The board typically meets twice per month, and all meetings are open to the public. For additional information about upcoming meetings, visit centerville.k12.oh.us/about-us/board.

Centerville Schools recognized for excellence in financial reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in

Financial Reporting to Centerville City School District for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

The Certificate of Achievement was established in 1945 and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



TEACHING & LEARNING

Helping students plan for the future

This year, Centerville High School began using YouScience to help students with planning for their high school courses, college and careers, and their overall well-being. Here's how it is being used:

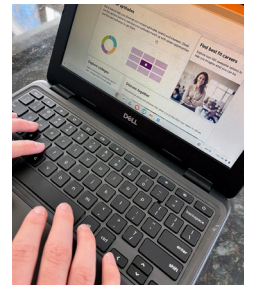
▶ Students use YouScience's strengths-based assessment to identify their aptitudes and interests. The tool provides insights into career matches and tips for success, empowering families to make informed decisions about education pathways. CHS students can access their YouScience data by logging in through the Clever portal.

▶ YouScience also shows where a student's aptitudes -- their natural abilities -- and interests don't match, which is often caused by a lack of exposure to certain career fields. By exploring these areas, students can discover new opportunities and think about different career goals. These insights can also help CHS refine and expand programs to better align with student

strengths and community needs.

▶ Centerville Schools can use YouScience for free, thanks to a partnership with the Montgomery County Educational Service Center. By targeting student skills and interests, the ESC can send messages to families about career fairs, internships, and other resources to help meet future workforce needs in the greater Dayton area.

"We want students to develop a healthy mindset about school and future opportunities," said Adam Ciarlariello, director of secondary curriculum. "By leveraging this innovative tool, we're able to empower students with the knowledge and resources needed to succeed after high school."



DIVERSIFYING & INCLUDING

English Learner population continues to grow



Two EL students at Centerville High School are interviewed by the student-run radio station WCWT.

dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging for all new students and building strong partnerships with families, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to contribute to our school community."

EL students are supported by four specialists and nine tutors, many of whom are bilingual and provide language support for families in Dari, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Kinyarwanda, Korean, Spanish, Russian, and Turkish.

"We are fortunate that Centerville-Washington Township is such a vibrant community where people from around the world choose to live, work, and study," LeMaster said. "All our students benefit from this diversity as we prepare and empower them to engage and thrive in an interconnected world. Our Portrait of an Elk highlights the importance of empathy, adaptability, and communication -- traits that diverse experiences help strengthen in all of us."

Just 10 years ago, Centerville Schools welcomed about 150 students who were English Learners. That number has steadily increased to more than 400 students this year, representing a 167 percent increase in students served.

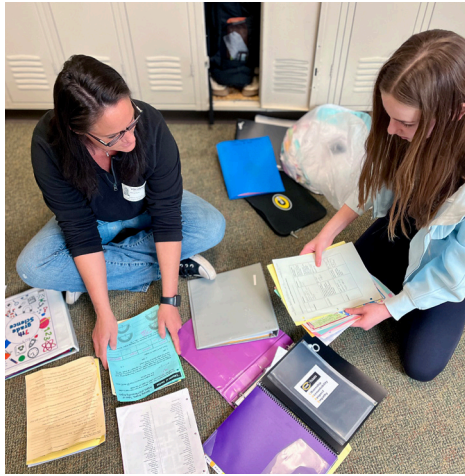
"Centerville's English learner population is incredibly diverse, with families speaking over 40 different home languages," said Megan LeMaster, the district's English learner (EL) coach. "Our staff is

Nonprofit awards \$12,450 in classroom grants

The Centerville Education Foundation awarded \$12,450 toward 19 different grants, which will be used by Centerville teachers for classroom projects, focusing on topics from math, science, and literature to social-emotional learning.

“We are extremely grateful that our community and service organizations continue to support the amazing work of our teachers, fostering the outstanding accomplishments of our kids!” said Dave Garel, a member of the CEF Board of Trustees.

CEF is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization founded to enrich the district’s educational programs. Funds to support the grants were donated by the Centerville Noon Optimist Club and generous community members, parents, students, and alumni.



An academic volunteer helps a student at Tower Heights Middle School develop organizational skills, thanks to a 2024 CEF grant that provided CARE Folders to manage school materials.



Read more: bit.ly/40OaBng

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Professional in-service days were added to this year’s school calendar to facilitate discussion about curriculum initiatives as well as student needs, and to encourage more time for collaboration among teachers and other staff members.



Centerville High School students interested in learning more about military careers had an opportunity to meet with representatives from the U.S. Armed Forces in the fall. On March 4 from 6:30-8 p.m., CHS will host its annual College & Career Fair, which features representatives from universities, trade schools, the military, and various career fields. The event is open to the public.

Seventh graders at Magsig Middle School enjoyed a live performance of *The Writer’s Pen* by the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. The professional artists visited as part of the Magsig Muse Club’s work with Muse Machine, a Dayton area arts education organization. The Magsig Muse Club was started more than 30 years ago by art teacher Cherie Mescher. When Mescher passed away unexpectedly in 1994, a Muse Machine scholarship fund was established in her memory, thanks to donations and the sale of note cards featuring her artwork. This year, the scholarship fund is supporting the Magsig Muse Club with three in-school performances.



(left to right) Third graders at Cline Elementary tackled real-world math by doubling a recipe, multiplying fractions, and measuring ingredients to make mini pumpkin pies. A fifth grader at Driscoll Elementary practiced coding a Dash robot during Tech Time, one of five integrated arts classes taken by students in grades 2-5. Second grade students at John Hole Elementary became dinosaur experts (and got to dig for fossils!) during a visit from the Cincinnati Museum Center.



Centerville Schools will host its second STEAM Night for grades 5-8 from 6-8 p.m. on April 23 at Tower Heights Middle School. During last year’s event, more than 200 families enjoyed hands-on activities and presentations from 25 presenters.

Centerville High School recognizes National Merit scholars

Eighteen academically talented Centerville High School students were recognized during the school's annual National Merit Recipient Assembly.

► Eight CHS seniors were named **Semifinalists**: Amanda DeMarco, Daniel Emmert, Aaron Florence, Claire Leaver, Wonho Lee, Nicholas Smith, Nikolaus Tharaldson, and Christopher Wang

► Ten seniors were named **Commended Scholars**: Hailey Harris, Eunjae Kim, Griffin Rhoads, Maheshwar Sai Ganesh, Elijah Smith, Arthee Thambi-Pillai, Ava Timmerman, Brayden Trospier, Aryan Vohra, and Elena Von Handorf

During the program, students had an opportunity to share positive experiences from their time at CHS. They thanked their parents and specific teachers who have made an impact on them, as well as talking about the life skills they've been able to develop in classes and extracurricular activities, such as growing as leaders and problem solvers and finding their passion for a particular field of study.

"I'd like to thank Centerville and all the teachers who choose every day to put genuine time and genuine effort into teaching



us and into developing a love for their subject matters," said senior Daniel Emmert. "That's an incredible thing, and it leads to all kinds of success in the future."

More than 1.3 million juniors from about 21,000 high schools entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Centerville's eight Semifinalists are part of a distinguished group of only 16,000 students nationwide, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and the highest scoring entrants in each state.

LEADING & INNOVATING

K-5 schools named Schools of Excellence in Prevention



We're a
PLATINUM LEVEL
Schools of Excellence
in Prevention School!

All eight of Centerville's K-5 schools have maintained their Schools of Excellence in Prevention (SEP) designations through the Montgomery County Educational Service Center. Each school earned the Platinum Level, the program's highest rating.

PVN, PVS, Cline, Driscoll, John Hole, Normandy, Stingley, and Weller continue to implement prevention programs that promote mental wellness, reduce risky behaviors like bullying and substance use, and encourage healthy habits such as stress management and refusal skills.

According to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, schools are ideal settings to foster resilience and healthy behaviors in students. The SEP program equips schools with strategies to create drug-free, supportive environments for students, families, and staff.

Nicole McDonald, Stingley's school counselor, emphasized the positive impact of the program: "Being able to have these prevention services for our students here in the Centerville community has allowed us to foster lasting relationships with not only our students but also with the families and the community that stand behind us."

First graders at Primary Village South use words and pictures to tell stories about their favorite memories. Writing stories helps children understand language, organize their ideas, explore their creativity, and improve their ability to express thoughts.



Students in Centerville's Integrated Transition Options Program (ITOP) were recognized by the Centerville-Washington Park District for contributing nearly 200 hours of volunteer work to help maintain local parks.

QUALITY PROFILE

2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

As we reflect on the 2023-24 school year, we are incredibly proud of all we have accomplished together. Be sure to view the the full profile here: centerville.k12.oh.us/about-us/district-profile
Thank you for being an integral part of our mission. Here's to another outstanding year ahead!

OUR MISSION: EMPOWER, CHALLENGE, AND SUPPORT EVERY LEARNER TO GROW EVERY DAY

OUR SCHOOLS AT A GLANCE



PreK-12 Students
8,382



Staff Members
1,094



School Buildings
13



STATE REPORT CARD

Centerville Schools was one of only 68 school districts to earn an overall rating of 5 stars on the 2023-24 Ohio School Report Card – the highest possible mark school districts can receive



91%

of 2024 graduates plan to attend a 2- or 4-year college or university



98%

4-year graduation rate was 10% higher than the state average



59%

of the Class of 2017 graduated from college within 6 years, putting CHS in the top 8% in the state



81%

of AP exams at CHS earned a score of 3 or above



52%

of Ohio's State Tests taken by our students resulted in Accomplished, Advanced, or Advanced Plus scores



75%

of teachers have at least a master's degree



Centerville Schools is the #1 ranked school district in the Dayton area, with an A+ rating from Niche.com lifestyle website

71% of each dollar is spent on instruction and pupil support, compared to the state average of 67%



Aa1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service puts Centerville among the top 1% of Ohio school districts to receive the two highest possible ratings



More than 400 residents attended 5 community forums, plus we hosted 5 safety series events and took the Elks Express mobile learning station to 20 community events



More than 5,000 meals were served to students every day, and 120 school buses transported more than 6,500 public and private school students to and from school each day

SCAN THIS CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW FULL PROFILE



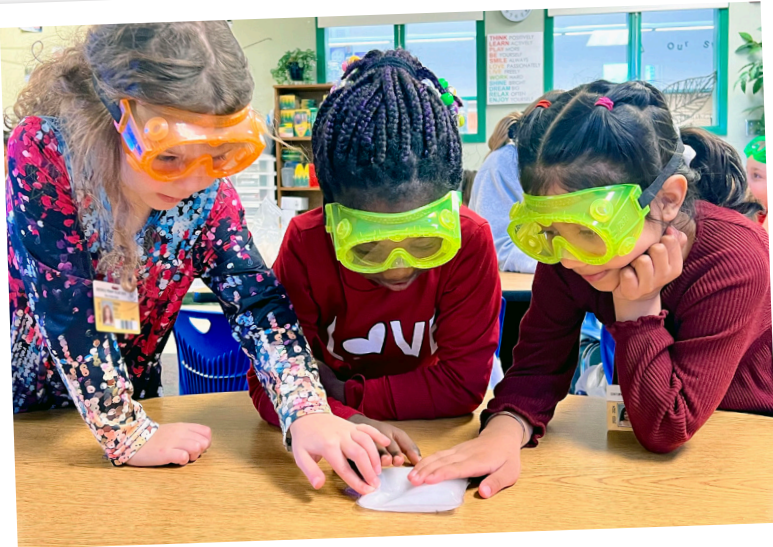


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Jon T. Wesley, Superintendent

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A school newsletter for residents of Centerville-Washington Township



Is your child ready for kindergarten? Centerville City Schools will open online kindergarten enrollment for the 2025-26 school year on Monday, March 3. Families are asked to complete their registration by Monday, March 31 to ensure they can participate in kindergarten screening in late spring. To be eligible for kindergarten during the 2025-26 school year, students must be five years old by Aug. 1, 2025.



Stay up-to-date with your local schools: Get district news delivered to your email each week! Visit bit.ly/3qtaLAO or scan this code to sign up.

Mark your calendar

- Feb. 24** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m.
- Feb. 26** Elks Connect - 6:30 p.m. at Normandy
- March 3** 2025-26 kindergarten enrollment opens
- March 11** Safety Series - 6:30 p.m. at CHS
- March 14** End of third quarter
- March 17** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m.
- March 21-28** No school - Spring Break
- April 23** Elks Connect - 6:30 p.m. at Watts
- April 25** No school - Teacher work day
- April 28** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m.
- May 24** Class of 2025 commencement
- May 26** No school - Memorial Day
- May 27** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m.
- May 29** Last day of 2024-25 school year
- Aug. 13** First day of 2025-26 school year