

THE QUAKER QUARTERLY

Spring 2025

Dear Quaker Community,



It's been a welcome change to enjoy some warmer spring days, and with more on the way, we're looking forward to all the activities that make this season such a fun and exciting time at school! As we plan for the future of New Philadelphia City Schools, we've been grateful for the opportunity to meet with our community, listen to your thoughts and hear what matters most to you. Your input has played a key role in shaping our plans, and we take your needs and requests seriously as we work to build the best future for our students.

On May 6, New Philadelphia City Schools will ask voters to consider a bond issue and permanent improvement levy to fund new school construction and maintain existing buildings. The plan includes building a new PK-6 elementary school at the South Elementary campus, funding a future middle/high school at the current high school location and relocating administrative offices to the Dome. It also preserves the current high school gym, honoring the community's request. The permanent improvement levy would also provide about \$633,000 annually for ongoing maintenance needs. If approved, homeowners would pay \$242 per year per \$100,000 of home value — \$207 for the bond issue and \$35 for the permanent improvement levy.

Passing the levy would unlock matching funds from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and allow the district to focus resources on student learning rather than emergency repairs to aging facilities that continue to require significant repairs. According to an analysis by ThenDesign Architecture, building new facilities would be less expensive than renovating the current buildings. To learn more, see our facility assessment reports on our website. Without local funding, the district risks losing state support and may face higher costs in the future by not securing current funding levels for our matching funds. This path would also require the district to continue relying on temporary solutions like modular classrooms and repurposed spaces.

Currently, every elementary school in the district utilizes trailers for additional classroom space. While these trailers help accommodate student needs, they require students and staff to move between buildings throughout the day, exposing them to poor weather conditions. Additionally, trailers create challenges for maintaining secure facilities.

The Board of Education has also commissioned a traffic study to assess the impact of the proposed plan on the South Elementary area. Once the study is complete, the district will share the findings with the community to ensure transparency and thoughtful planning.

If you have thoughts you would like to share or want to learn more regarding our Master Facility Plan, I encourage you to contact me at 330-364-0600 or attend one of our upcoming board meetings or building tours.

Amy Wentworth
Superintendent

COMMUNITY INVITATION

Tour New Philadelphia's Elementary Schools

New Philadelphia City Schools invites you to tour our elementary buildings ahead of upcoming Board of Education meetings. These tours provide a firsthand look at how we maintain safe, welcoming and functional learning spaces while addressing ongoing maintenance needs. You'll see the unique opportunities and challenges at each building and gain insight into how our facilities support student learning, creativity, and collaboration. Our schools are among the community's most valuable assets, and most importantly, they belong to YOU.

We welcome your observations and feedback as we plan for the future of our district's facilities.

Remaining Building Tour Schedule 5:45–6:30 p.m.



Monday, April 14 – York Elementary
(938 Stonecreek Rd. SW)



Monday, May 12 – East Elementary
(470 Fair Ave. NE)



Update from the Treasurer

At New Philadelphia City Schools, providing a strong and well-rounded education starts with smart financial planning. Despite challenges like rising costs and changes in state funding, we remain committed to responsible financial management. Our focus is on supporting quality education by investing in dedicated teachers and staff, maintaining safe and welcoming schools and ensuring students have the tools and technology they need to succeed.

You should have recently received the district's Financial Prospectus, which provides a detailed look at our finances. We are committed to keeping our community informed about how we manage district funds, so you can see how every dollar supports our schools. You can also access New Philadelphia City Schools' financial information anytime at npschools.org.

We understand that conversations about school funding are important and we want our community to be part of them. If you have any questions about our finances or upcoming plans, please reach out to us at 330-364-0607. Together, we can make sure our schools remain strong and ready to serve future generations.

Julie Erwin, CPA
Treasurer

Tech-Savvy Seventh Graders Dazzle

Tech students turned up the creativity while designing a cool new fall and winter jacket collection. Using Google Draw, Docs and Slides, they created brand logos, picked colors using real consumer data and presented their jacket designs made for chilly weather. It was an awesome blend of style, teamwork and innovation!



Guys With Phila Ties Inspire

For the third-grade boys in the Guys with Phila Ties program, the journey has been exciting and inspiring. The monthly mentoring lunches focus on building leadership, character and life skills, covering topics like proper handshakes, gratitude, active listening, table etiquette and community service. Local leaders, educators, athletes and professionals join each meeting to share advice and help the boys grow into young gentlemen. Wearing their New Philadelphia-logo ties, the boys participate in hands-on activities like writing thank-you cards, practicing interview skills and even playing Uno during a special visit with the Guys with Dover Ties. Thanks to strong community support and great role models, the program remains a meaningful and memorable experience for these future leaders.

Game Time for Good Deeds

West Elementary students in Mrs. Stanton's and Ms. Starkey's classes were rewarded for "caught being good" with some fun board game time. Laughter and friendly competition filled the rooms as kids celebrated their time together.





New Philadelphia Launches to the Top

New Philadelphia Schools blasted off to victory, winning the coveted traveling trophy for best school booth at the county-wide Reading Festival. Families explored a rocket ship filled with hidden space objects and completed fun literacy activities at mission control. It was an out-of-this-world way to celebrate reading!



Good Behavior Scores Big

The high school girls and boys basketball teams joined West Elementary fourth graders to celebrate their good behavior for January. Smiles, high-fives and plenty of fun filled the day as students connected with their favorite athletes and celebrated their hard work.



OCC Leadership Club Crafts Valentine's Day Joy

New Philadelphia High School students from the Ohio Cardinal Conference (OCC) Leadership Club brought extra excitement to elementary Valentine's Day parties. They jumped into the fun, leading activities and creating Valentine's masterpieces together.

Central's Top Spellers Compete

Central Elementary buzzed with excitement during its school-wide spelling bee on February 4. Kylie Jackson from Mr. Ruegsegger's class took the top spot, with Jensen Mansfield from Mrs. Miller's class as runner-up. Kylie qualified for regionals on March 1 at Kent State Stark Campus. Go, Kylie!



Art Club Spreads the Love

The high school art club joined forces with fourth graders for a Valentine's Day box-making extravaganza. There was plenty of glue, glitter and giggles as big kids and little kids got creative together.



Fairy Tale Fun For Preschoolers

Preschool families stepped into a world of fairy tale fun during a special evening together. After sharing a meal, everyone enjoyed an entertaining show by T.J. Marlatt before diving into interactive stories filled with magic, adventure and plenty of smiles. It was a night of laughter, imagination and family fun!



West Elementary Earns Top Honors in Language Arts and Math

We are thrilled to announce some truly exceptional results from the spring 2024 Ohio State Tests (OST) in language arts for our fourth-grade students at West Elementary! With a growth index of 8.3 in language arts, West Elementary ranked sixth out of 1,582 schools in Ohio for fourth grade. This success reflects our teachers' dedication to nurturing strong reading and writing skills in our students.

We are also thrilled to share the truly exceptional results from the spring 2024 OST in math for our fourth-grade students. West Elementary earned the No. 1 spot out of 1,582 schools in Ohio with a growth index of 14.8. This incredible achievement highlights our commitment to excellence in math education and underscores the hard work of our students and staff.



Ramping Up STEM Fun

Bill Graham, known as “Papa Red,” brought science fun to Mrs. Traxler’s class at East Elementary. Students built candy cane sleighs and tested them on ramps. They also help Papa Red collect pop tabs, donating over 120 pounds to Akron Children’s Hospital this year!



Peer Tutoring for Math Success

Central Elementary students are teaming up to help their classmates crush the Ohio State Test in math. These peer tutors, picked for their math skills and positive attitudes, review two new topics each week during lunch. They even earn Quaker Tickets for their hard work because helping friends and scoring rewards is a total win-win!



Teachers Go to Class

West and Central teachers had an exciting opportunity to learn from the best during a recent professional development session, “Engaging Students Through Connections,” led by third and fourth-grade gifted teachers Kelly VanArsdalen and Terry McCrory. A big thank you to Kelly and Terry for leading the way with innovative strategies and inspiring their fellow educators!



Bowling Team Striking Toward Victory

The boys bowling team is on fire this season under veteran head coach Jeff Locker. With their eyes set on a District Tournament win and a trip back to the state competition in 2025, the Quakers are striking big. Leading the charge is a talented group of seniors, including Landon LaBiche, who has rolled not one but two perfect 300 games this season!



Quaker P-R-I-D-E

Students at South Elementary have been learning all about Quaker P-R-I-D-E. Each letter represents an important academic behavior that helps second and third graders succeed in the classroom.



Kaput Signs to NCAA Division I University

A huge congratulations to Kayla Kaput for signing to cheer at Bowling Green State University, an NCAA Division I school. New Philadelphia Cheer is beaming with pride over Kayla's incredible hard work, dedication and passion. Way to go, Kayla!



Delphian Chorale Wows Cavs Crowd

The New Philadelphia High School Delphian Chorale had an unforgettable moment singing the National Anthem at the Cleveland Cavaliers game. Under the bright arena lights and in front of thousands of fans, these talented students filled the stadium with pride and harmony. What an incredible opportunity to showcase their voices on such a big stage!



York Elementary Students of the Month

York Elementary recently honored 11 amazing students as part of its Student of the Month celebration. Teachers and staff selected students who consistently show leadership, effort, success and positive behavior. These celebrations inspire students to keep doing their best and encourage others to follow their lead.

These students were celebrated with a certificate, a medal, their names added to the school's "Wall of Fame" and a pizza party with Mr. Maurer. Congratulations to these amazing students for setting the bar high and making York Elementary proud!

The most recent Students of the Month were:

Aspiring Artist: Porter Blankenship

Ultimate Champion: Maddox Miller

Marvelous Musician: Auri Thornton

Tremendous Tech: Zaira Mejia Ajanel

Literacy Learner: Jonah Anderson

Lively Librarian: Skylar Armstrong

Quaker Pride: Zylar Peltier

Principal's Perspective: Liza Staley

Kindness Award: Asher McGuire

Kindergarten Leader: Ellison Dunlap

First Grade Leader: Ellie Wilcox



February High School Students of the Month

New Philadelphia High School proudly recognizes the February Students of the Month's outstanding achievements. These students have shown exceptional dedication and hard work in their studies and school activities.

Seniors:

Emilie Hutton

Kiersten Creighton (Not Pictured)

Juniors:

Kasen Jones (Not Pictured)

Preston Cox

Sophomores:

Teagan Zimmerman

Jessica Cael Mejia

Freshmen:

Maddix Bair

Isabella Salazar

A special thank you to Denny Trimmer of Solid Rock Photos for providing the student portraits. Congratulations to all the students for their continued excellence!



Jim "Basketball" Jones Rocks East Elementary

East Elementary was full of energy and excitement when Jim "Basketball" Jones stopped by for a fun-filled assembly. Students showed off their basketball and dance moves while picking up valuable life lessons about teamwork, confidence and chasing their dreams. It was a slam dunk of a day!



Percy Jackson T-Shirt Fun

Officer Demattio joined Mrs. VanArsdalen's fourth graders at West Elementary for a fun-filled day of making Camp Half-Blood T-shirts from the Percy Jackson book series. He even showed off his creative side by modeling the final product, earning big smiles and laughter from the entire class!





npschools.org

May 6, 2025 BALLOT ISSUE

New Philadelphia City Schools is on the ballot May 6 to ask voters to consider a bond issue and permanent improvement levy to fund new schools and maintain district buildings

For more information,
visit npschools.org or
call 330-364-0600

The Specifics of the Bond Levy and Permanent Improvement Levy

- Bond Issue (5.9 mills) for 37 years – Would generate \$72 million to build a new elementary school (PK-6) at the South Elementary campus and help fund a new middle/high school (7-12) in phase two of the district's facilities plan.
- Permanent Improvement Levy (1.0 mills) – Would provide about \$633,000 per year to maintain and improve school buildings. The state requires a 0.5-mill levy when a district receives funding for new buildings, but 1.0 mills is being requested to better prepare for long-term maintenance needs.
- While the state has promised future funding through its Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP), the district must secure local funding to move forward.

The plan also includes:

- Relocating the district's administrative offices to the Dome
- Preserving the current high school gym, as requested by the community
- Funding to demolish and abate the current buildings

The Board of Education has commissioned a traffic study to assess the impact of this plan on the South Elementary area community. Once the study is complete, the district will share the findings.

How Much Will This Cost Homeowners?

The proposed bond issue and tax levy are listed separately on the ballot but are one vote. If approved, homeowners would pay:

- \$207 per year per \$100,000 of home value for the bond issue
- \$35 per year per \$100,000 of home value for the permanent improvement levy
- This totals \$242 per year or \$20.17 per month per \$100,000 of home value

New Philadelphia City Schools has involved community stakeholders in numerous Facility Master Planning Meetings. The insights gathered from these sessions have directly informed the strategic direction of the district's facilities planning.