

BUCKEYE BULLETIN

buckeyeschools.org



Students rise to the Zearn Math challenge! This year, students in grades 4-8 have been actively engaging with Zearn Math. Across the district, students have demonstrated perseverance and critical thinking as we aim for 60 grade-level lessons by year's end.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:



At Buckeye Local Schools, we are committed to empowering students to succeed. This edition of our newsletter highlights the many ways students are empowered to embrace challenges, collaborate with peers, and prepare for bright futures. From One School, One Book at Buckeye Elementary to Real Money, Real

World at Buckeye Junior High, to the Monthly Speaker Series at Buckeye High School, our students are gaining valuable life skills through hands-on learning experiences.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on ensuring our students have the facilities and resources necessary to thrive. Following the recommendation of the Campus and Facilities Task Force, Buckeye Local Schools has developed a community-driven Campus Facilities Master Plan to address aging facilities and equip Buckeye students for today's curriculum and tomorrow's careers. The initiative includes constructing a new high school and repurposing the current high school as a junior high to create modern, adaptable spaces for student-centered learning. A bond issue will be on the May 6, 2025 ballot to help fund the plan.

Buckeye Local Schools remains dedicated to providing the opportunities and support to empower every learner for success. Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to shape a strong future for our students.

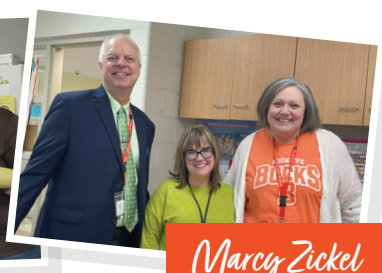
Go Bucks!

Jeffrey M. Stanton
Superintendent

You Made Your Mark
**CONGRATULATIONS TO MARCY ZICKEL
AND BILLY SCHNEIDER FOR MAKING
YOUR MARK ON BUCKEYE SCHOOLS!**



Billy Schneider



Marcy Zickel

Important Upcoming Registration Dates

Registration is now open for the incoming kindergarten class of 2038 and for students new to the district in the 2025-2026 school year.

Registration Dates:

- APR 10** Kindergarten Screening
- APR 17** Kindergarten Screening
- MAY 5** Deadline for existing open enrolled students to reapply.
- MAY 15** All current Buckeye families can begin to update Final Forms for the 2025-2026 school year!
- JUN 2** Deadline for new open enrollment applications.

For more information, please visit our registration webpage at buckeyeschools.org/studentregistration.

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

TREASURER'S MESSAGE:

Maintaining Financial Responsibility in Facility Planning



Mark Donnelly, Treasurer

As Buckeye Local Schools plans for the future, a key financial consideration is how to best address aging facilities while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Buckeye Junior High, built in 1957, has reached a point where continued investment

in major facility repairs is becoming increasingly costly. Instead of allocating significant funds toward short-term fixes, the district's Campus Facilities Master Plan proposes repurposing the current high school as a new junior high and constructing a new high school to meet modern educational needs.

Rising construction costs and ongoing maintenance expenses make delaying the project financially challenging. By acting now, the district can maximize available funding

sources—including \$5 million in cash reserves, a \$10 million Certificate of Participation (COPS) loan, and a \$59 million bond issue—while minimizing the financial impact on taxpayers.

If the bond issue does not pass, the district may need to rely on cash reserves for temporary repairs to the 68-year-old junior high, which has significant structural and mechanical issues, including roof deterioration, an aging HVAC system, and outdated plumbing and electrical systems. These repairs may divert funds away from long-term facility investments that address the educational needs of today's students.

The Treasurer's Office remains committed to financial transparency and thoughtful planning.

For more information on district finances or the bond issue, please email me at mdonnelly@buckeyeschools.org or visit buckeyeschools.org/departments/treasurers-department.

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Empowering Student Learning



Bridget Elias, Director of Curriculum

At Buckeye Local Schools, we are committed to providing engaging, innovative learning experiences that prepare students for success. As education evolves, so do the instructional approaches and resources needed to support academic growth. Modern learning environments can help facilitate critical thinking, communication, and collaboration

skills essential for future careers that integrate the district's Portrait of a Buck.

The Campus Facilities Master Plan was developed to align our learning spaces with current and future educational needs. The proposed updates would provide enhanced STEM and arts facilities, project-based learning environments, and flexible classroom spaces designed to support a range of instructional strategies. These upgrades would enhance the curriculum by accommodating extended course offerings and support dynamic, hands-on learning.

Additionally, updated building infrastructure will improve the student learning environment with the inclusion of improved air quality, temperature control, and enhanced safety measures.

As the district plans for the future, we are dedicated to creating learning environments that foster high-quality instruction and promote student success and will continue to assess how instructional spaces align with evolving curriculum standards and workforce demands. For more information about curriculum initiatives and instructional planning, visit buckeyeschools.org/departments/curriculum.

BUCKEYE CONTRIBUTES TO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VIDEO WALL

The Buckeye Local School District has played a key role in enhancing community safety by contributing \$20,000 to a \$55,000 project aimed at increasing security. The funding was used to build a video safety wall at the Medina County Sheriff's Department, which now provides real-time access to surveillance footage from four local schools. This crucial initiative, supported by the Ohio Attorney General's safety grant, ensures that law enforcement can monitor school security systems during emergencies, allowing for faster response and better coordination. Buckeye Schools' contribution demonstrates a strong commitment to student and community safety.

LEARN MORE



ELEMENTARY *Highlights*

24 MATH TOURNAMENT

Buckeye elementary students put their math skills to the test in an exciting 24 Math Tournament. This competition challenges players to use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to make four numbers equal 24. This fun and engaging event helped students sharpen their problem-solving abilities while fostering a love for math.



6TH GRADE NONFICTION BOOK PROJECTS

As part of their quarter 3 studies, Buckeye sixth graders showcased their creativity and comprehension of nonfiction texts through book projects. Students chose from three options: a timeline highlighting key events, a "book in a box" featuring meaningful objects representing the story, or a map setting illustrating essential locations. Each project encouraged critical thinking and deeper book connections. Our sixth-grade students put tremendous effort into their work and did an outstanding job bringing their stories to life.



PRESCHOOLERS CELEBRATE *First-Ever Teddy Bear Day!*

Preschoolers recently enjoyed the first-ever Teddy Bear Day, a special event designed to support communication, pre-academic skills, and social development. Students brought their favorite teddy bears to school, shared stories, and participated in interactive centers featuring cooperative games, sensory crafts, and a special Teddy Bear Picnic. The day ended with a Teddy Bear Parade, where children proudly showcased handmade masks. We look forward to making this an annual tradition to celebrate learning, creativity, and friendship—one teddy bear hug at a time!



EXCITING LEARNING ADVENTURES AT BUCKEYE PRIMARY!

February was filled with hands-on learning and creativity at Buckeye Primary! Students explored Black History Month by studying influential figures like George Washington Carver, Rosa Parks, and Jackie Robinson. They also embraced winter through imaginative writing projects and seasonal artwork that now decorates the hallways. In science lessons, students built miniature rollercoasters to explore force and motion, connecting their discoveries to the problem-solving spirit of the innovators they studied. From history to science, Buckeye Primary students continue to learn and grow in exciting ways!



ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK: A COMMUNITY OF READERS!

In March, Buckeye elementary students celebrated reading through the One School, One Book initiative and PTO-sponsored ReadATHon! Pre-K to 3rd graders explored *Zoey and Sassafras: Dragons and Marshmallows*, a story blending science and fantasy, while 4th to 6th graders read *The Fourteenth Goldfish*, a novel about scientific discovery and curiosity. Throughout the month, students participated in discussions, experiments, and community activities that brought these stories to life.



BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOLS CAMPUS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN MAY 6, 2025 BOND ISSUE

Following the recommendation of the Campus and Facilities Task Force, Buckeye Local Schools is addressing aging facilities to equip Buckeye students for today's curriculum and tomorrow's careers.

The Campus Facilities Master Plan includes building a new high school and repurposing the existing high school as a junior high. These modern facilities will transform teaching and learning with current technology, flexible spaces, and upgraded safety.

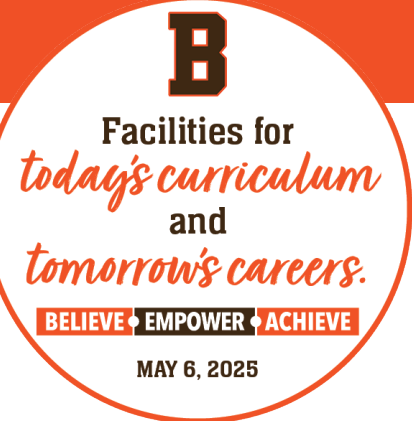
The bond issue on the May 6, 2025 ballot will help fund the plan.

Modern buildings will **transform teaching and learning** for both students and staff.

- Student-centered building designs promote communication and collaboration.
- Updated safety measures create secure and focused learning environments.
- Classrooms equipped with enhanced technology support effective instruction.
- Adaptable classroom spaces encourage student interaction and dynamic learning experiences.
- Consistent temperature and air quality improve students' focus and participation.

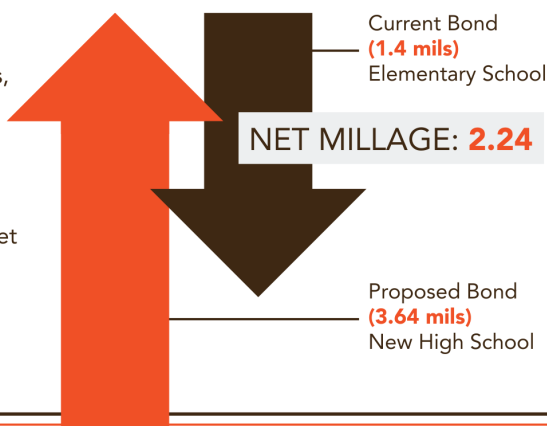
The new high school will feature important upgrades to **enhance the district's curriculum.**

- Upgraded STEM and arts facilities
- Future forward technology
- Flexible and collaborative spaces
- Extended course offerings
- Dynamic learning experiences
- Fully equipped project-based learning environments



How much will the bond issue cost you as a taxpayer?

If the May 2025 bond passes, funds would begin to be collected in January 2026. With the Elementary School Bond scheduled to be paid off in December 2025, the net cost to taxpayers per \$100,000 of home value will be \$83.30 per year or \$6.94 per month.



COST OF PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL BOND

\$127.40 per year per \$100,000 of home value
(Collection to start in 2026 if passed)

SAVINGS WITH ELEMENTARY BOND COLLECTION ENDING

\$44.10 per year per \$100,000 of home value
(Final payment due December 2025)

NET COST TO TAXPAYERS

\$83.30 per year per \$100,000 of home value

For details on the Campus Facilities Master Plan and the bond issue, visit buckeyeschools.org/facilities-planning or scan the QR code.



Frequently Asked Questions

What will be on the May ballot, and how much will it cost?

On May 6, 2025, voters will decide on a \$59 million bond issue to fund the construction of a new high school as outlined in the Campus & Facilities Master Plan. If approved, the bond is expected to carry an estimated millage rate of 3.64, translating to an annual cost of approximately \$127 per \$100,000 of appraised property value.

What is the Campus Facilities Master Plan?

The Campus & Facilities Master Plan is a community-driven initiative developed by a Campus and Facility Task Force of over 50 community members. It addresses aging facilities and ensures students have learning environments that support today's curriculum and future career opportunities.

The plan focuses on modernizing and improving district facilities by

- Constructing a new high school at the corner of Columbia and Wolff Roads.
- Repurposing the current high school into a junior high with necessary renovations.
- Demolishing the outdated junior high, originally built in 1957.
- Enhancing campus traffic flow for improved safety and efficiency.

Why is the district proposing this plan now?

Buckeye Junior High, built in 1957, has reached a point where continued investment in repairs is becoming increasingly costly. Instead of allocating significant funds toward short-term fixes, the district's Campus Facilities Master Plan proposes repurposing the current high school as a new junior high and constructing a new high school to meet modern educational needs.

Rising construction costs and ongoing maintenance expenses make delaying the project financially challenging. By acting now, the district can maximize available funding sources—including \$5 million in cash reserves, a \$10 million Certificate of Participation (COPS) loan, and a \$59 million bond issue—while minimizing the financial impact on taxpayers.

Why do we need a new high school?

Building a new high school will support advanced technology and learning environments with improved safety measures. It will also be designed to accommodate a future junior high school addition. Meanwhile, we will update the current high school to serve junior high students, and the old junior high will be demolished. This plan allows us to efficiently utilize resources while providing excellent educational facilities for all our students.

A LOOK INSIDE BUCKEYE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Additional investment in the junior high is no longer fiscally responsible. By constructing a new high school, the district can repurpose the current high school into a junior high.



Years of wear and tear have left lockers dented and warped.



Aging pipes and ceiling leaks have caused significant water damage throughout the building.



Over time, shifting and settling have caused cracks to form in the walls.

B JUNIOR HIGH *Highlights*

ATHLETES SERVING TEACHERS

When the first snowfall of the season arrived, Buckeye student-athletes showed their appreciation for teachers by clearing snow from their vehicles. This thoughtful gesture helped staff get home safely and without delay. Afterwards the students warmed up with hot chocolate, reflecting on the importance of teamwork and stewardship. Their actions exemplify the true spirit of generosity, giving back to our school community!



Breakfast of Champions LEADERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to Parker Thacker for receiving the Leadership Award from the Ohio Middle Level Association! Recognized by Mrs. Nunn for her outstanding school spirit and initiative, Parker leads student assemblies and brings creative energy to activities that engage both students and staff. Her kindness, enthusiasm, and ability to inspire others make her a true role model. Parker was honored at the Breakfast of Champions on March 6, and we couldn't be prouder of her well-deserved recognition.

REAL MONEY, REAL WORLD

Buckeye Junior High 8th graders participated in Real Money, Real World, a hands-on financial literacy program presented by the Ohio State Extension Office. Students were assigned a career, income, and family scenario, and then made real-life budgeting decisions for housing, transportation, and other expenses. This enlightening experience emphasized the importance of financial planning and decision-making. A special thank you to our incredible community partners and volunteers for making this event possible and helping our students gain valuable life skills.



SPELLING BEE

The Buckeye Junior High Spelling Bee took place on February 13, with 13 students competing. Aria Thomas won the competition by correctly spelling "rivulets," and Ava Perkins was the runner-up. Aria will advance to the regional spelling bee on March 15. This event is part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, a prestigious program that challenges students across the country to expand their vocabulary, sharpen their spelling skills, and build their confidence.

HIGH SCHOOL *Highlights*

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

The Buckeye High School Monthly Speaker Series continues to inspire students with insights into future career and educational opportunities. Recently, Mr. Bill Johnson, President and CEO of Welser Profile, provided a glimpse into the corporate world and the dedication it takes to lead a successful company.



ELECTIVES FAIR

At the 8th Annual High School Electives Fair, students were empowered to explore new interests by tailoring their course selections. This year, parents were also welcome to attend. We appreciate the strong community turnout and commitment to student success!



Unified Champions Basketball



On February 7, Buckeye High School hosted its Second Annual Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Basketball Game, fostering inclusivity and community engagement. The event featured a friendly match between Buckeye and North Ridgeville students, promoting teamwork and unity among participants. This initiative is part of Buckeye's ongoing commitment to the Unified Champion Schools program, which aims to create supportive environments through sports and collaborative activities.

HOOPS FOR HOPE

On January 31, Buckeye High School and Junior High Hope Squad Teams hosted the 2nd Annual Hoops for Hope Event during the boys varsity basketball game. Partnering with North Olmsted's Hope Squad, the event raised over \$250 through raffle tickets and halftime half-court shots. Proceeds were donated to the Medina County Coalition for Suicide Prevention and Mending Hearts for Mason to support suicide prevention efforts.



VALLEY CITY COMMUNITY GROUP

The Valley City Community Group (VCCG) was created as a 501c3 non-profit organization in Liverpool Township (Valley City). The VCCG supports the Buckeye Schools through annual scholarships for graduating Liverpool seniors. For more information on upcoming events and projects, contact Dave Smallwood, Valley City Community Group President, at 330-483-6113 or visit valleycity.org.



Buckeye Local School District
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Medina OH 44256

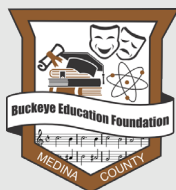
Save the Date

CRAIG BAILEY MEMORIAL RUN

"Run with the Bucks"
May 10th at 9:00 a.m.

The Buckeye Education
Foundation supports:

- Junior High Maker Space
- Craig Bailey Run with the Bucks
- The Confetti Project
- Hydroponics
- Author's Visits
- High School State House Visit
- Buckeye A Cappella Camp
- Hope Squad
- Unified Sports (Special Olympics)



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Visit buckeyeschools.org to read more building highlights and district news.

ATHLETIC *Highlights*

Buckeye Basketball CWC All-Conference Honors

Boys Basketball

Turner Dolata (11) CWC Offensive Player of the Year,
First Team All-Conference

Austin Hyre (11) First Team All-Conference

Derek Snyderburn (11) Second Team All-Conference

Scott DiMarco (12) Honorable Mention

Nolan Klingbeil (10) Honorable Mention

Girls Basketball

Ruby Hudak (12) First Team All-Conference

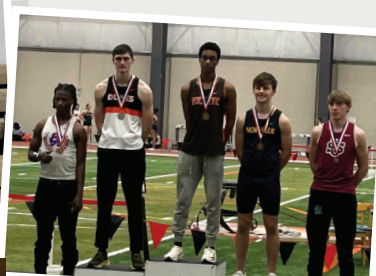
Ava Wolf (9) Second Team All-Conference

Kwynn Czerwony (12) Honorable Mention

Ava Piovarchy (9) Honorable Mention



Our Girl's Varsity Gymnastics team finished their season at the district competition in 5th place with an overall score of 132.65. Nevaeh Sejka tied for 8th in bars, and Jenna Orient placed 12th all around.



Dion Sams Jr. is the Division II Indoor State Champion in the Triple Jump with a mark of 46-06.5, setting a new school record. Congratulations, Dion, on this incredible achievement!



For the 4th consecutive year, Buckeye Wrestling has claimed the District Championship! The team moved on to the OHSSAA State Wrestling Tournament where Blake Bartos and Austin McKee earned 2nd and 3rd place finishes respectively.

Join us for *Buckeye Day* April 23rd at Buckeye Junior High School