

# THE QUAKER QUARTERLY

NEW PHILADELPHIA  
CITY SCHOOLS

Spring 2025

## Dear Quaker Community,



With the school year now behind us, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many successes we've achieved together. From award-winning student performances to outstanding academic and athletic growth, to celebrating the incredible accomplishments of the Class of 2025, it's been a year filled with milestones earned through hard work and the resilience of our students, staff and families.

We have also continued to make meaningful progress on our Strategic Plan. This plan was adopted by the Board of Education in January 2023 and has guided our district's goals and priorities ever since. Developed with input from staff, students, parents and community members, it reflects our shared commitment to educational excellence, student well-being and innovative learning. I'm proud to report that we have addressed every goal and objective in the plan and are excited to continue this strategic momentum moving forward. To learn more, visit the Strategic Plan tab on our website at [npschools.org](https://npschools.org).

Listening to our community is essential to our mission—and one recent opportunity to hear your voice was the May 6 bond issue. We recognize and respect the community's decision on the bond and remain committed to working together on our next steps. We are dedicated to addressing our facility needs in a way that reflects the voices of our residents and supports student success. We will continue working with our community to shape a path forward for our schools.

I invite you to read ahead for more exciting updates on what's happening across our district. From groundbreaking academic achievements to field trips and essential back-to-school information, our schools are brimming with stories that reflect the strength and unity of our Quaker community.

Your partnership—whether you are a parent, caregiver, neighbor, staff member or student—is the heart of what makes New Philadelphia so unique. Together, we are building a future where every student can thrive.

I wish you all a safe and well-deserved summer break. Whether you're going on a vacation or staying home to enjoy local relaxation, may it be filled with sunshine, laughter and lemonade.

Amy Wentworth  
Superintendent

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025

We are so proud of all you've accomplished and the determination you've shown along the way. Your Quaker family is cheering you on and we can't wait to see where your journey leads you.





## Update from the Treasurer

On May 6, our district came to the community with a bond issue to fund the construction of new school buildings and address long-term infrastructure needs. While the community did not support the measure, we are grateful to everyone who took the time to engage, ask questions and vote. We remain committed to finding a solution that reflects our community's values and supports the future of our students.

This is a particularly time-sensitive conversation because we have a unique opportunity through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). The state has offered to cover approximately \$80 million—or 55%—of the total cost of new school construction for our district, provided we secure the local funding portion within 16 months. If the New Philadelphia community supports a ballot issue within that window, we could begin the next phase of designing and planning for both a new PK-6 building and a new middle/high school at the same time. With this offer, it is essentially a “buy one, get one” deal—allowing us to leverage local investment into a far greater return for our students and community. The board is actively considering

how to move forward with this opportunity in a way that meets the needs of our students and community.

Regarding funding for our day-to-day operations—totally separate from facilities funding—we continue to closely monitor developments related to the state budget and school funding. These decisions made at the state level have a direct impact on our ability to plan and deliver the high-quality New Philadelphia education our community has come to expect. As always, we remain committed to transparency and will keep our community updated when we receive official word about any changes that affect our district's financial outlook.

Whether we're planning for tomorrow or managing today, transparency and accountability remain at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for being a vital part of our shared commitment to New Philadelphia's students and their future.

Julie Erwin, CPA  
Treasurer



## Wendy Carter Wins Big Honor

Wendy Carter, Food Service Team Manager at New Philadelphia High School, was honored at the CORAS Outstanding Classified Staff Awards in Zanesville. She was recognized for her dedication to students and staff and was proudly joined by Food Services Director Nate Mushrush and Assistant Superintendent Jeff Williams.

## Wild and Wonderful at East

Outback Ray brought his amazing animal friends to East Elementary, creating a hands-on learning adventure for students. The assembly was filled with wide eyes, brave hands and even a staff photo op with Spongebob the snake!



## Authors and Artists Unite

Fifth and ninth grade students from New Philly Schools wowed audiences at the Young Authors' and Illustrators' Conference at Kent State Tuscarawas. They shared their own creative stories and artwork and gained feedback from mentors and peers.



## READBowl Champs at South

South Elementary logged a whopping 262,697 minutes during the global READBowl challenge. Each "quarter" brought class leaders and sweet surprises and culminated in major wins for Mrs. Leggett's 2nd grade and Mrs. Swailes and Mrs. Durbin's 3rd grade teams!



## New Philadelphia Celebrates Retirees

To our 2025 retirees, thank you for the years of care, commitment and heart you've poured into New Philadelphia City Schools. Your impact will be felt for generations and your legacy lives on in every student you've inspired. We wish you joy, rest and well-deserved adventures in this next chapter.



Elois Watson

Barbara Ross

Joyce Morrell

Erica Andrews

Marci Hubbard

Stacy DiBacco

Cheryl Anne Graham

Jeff Furbay

Laurie Hall



## Smiles All Around

The Mobile Dentist visited South Elementary and provided dental services to 32 students. With treatments ranging from fluoride to sealants, the visit helped many stay on track for healthy smiles and better learning.



## Military Mode at West

West Elementary's 4th graders got into the test-prep spirit with Boot Camp, launched by Ensign Bell, a Naval Chaplain candidate. Students tackled practice sessions with discipline and determination, showing they were test-ready and Quaker strong.



## Ray Kroc Stars Shine Bright

Welty's Eddy Resendiz and New Philadelphia High School's Aiden Matthews were awarded the prestigious Ray Kroc Award for their incredible leadership and academic commitment. These students embody the Quaker spirit both inside and outside the classroom.



## Giver Gets Real

Seventh graders at Welty experienced “The Giver” in a whole new way by simulating the “Ceremony of Twelve.” Each student received a unique community job and the activity sparked conversations about reflection, society and future roles.



## Seal the Success

We're celebrating six outstanding Quakers who have earned the prestigious Ohio Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish. This achievement honors years of dedication and fluency in two languages, a skill that will open doors in college, careers and beyond. We're so proud of these multilingual trailblazers!



**Marcelo Ajanel Velasquez**

**Diego Bernal Garcia**

**Bryan Murillos Baldez**

**Addison Sears**

**Wendy Resendiz Sanchez**

**Sydney Purcell**

## Literacy Night Hits a Home Run

East Elementary knocked it out of the park with a baseball-themed Literacy Night full of joy and learning. From donated treats to a vibrant student art display, the night was a grand slam of family fun. Thank you to our community partners. None of this would be possible without you!





## Central Leaders Step Up

Central Elementary's Student Leadership Team is making big moves. From announcements to Spirit Week planning to raising \$2,000 for the Rainbow Connection, these young leaders are learning to lead with kindness, confidence and purpose.

## Author's Adventures at West

Beloved author Dan Gutman connected virtually with West Elementary students for a hilarious and heartfelt conversation about writing. He even read from a new unpublished book, a true highlight for our young readers!



## Staff Stars Celebrated

At the 29th Annual Staff Banquet, New Philadelphia honored dedicated staff with service awards, retiree recognition and special honors. Chelsea Traxler (Educator of the Year) and Holly Cline (Support Staff of the Year) were celebrated for going above and beyond. Congratulations to all the winners!



## York Explores the Trails

First graders from York Elementary explored nature at Wilmot Wilderness Center with hikes, pond scoops and time in the mud kitchen. The sunny weather made for a perfect outdoor learning day complete with a picnic lunch.



## Preschoolers Hit the Farm

Preschoolers had a blast on their field trip to The Farm at Walnut Creek where they fed animals, visited the petting zoo and had lunch in the barn. Thanks to the PTO, every student enjoyed this hands-on outdoor learning day at no cost!



## Teachers Feel the Love

York Elementary teachers were treated like royalty during Teacher Appreciation Week with shirts, treats and surprise goodies. The week-long celebration showed just how much they're loved and appreciated by the whole school community.



npschools.org

# Important Back-to-School Dates

**AUG  
15-19** Teacher In-Service Days

**AUG  
20** First Day of School for  
Students

**SEP  
1** Labor Day (No School)

**SEP  
19** Teacher In-Service Day  
(No School)

## PURPLE STAR PROUD

New Philadelphia High School has been proudly designated as a Purple Star School, a recognition awarded to schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. This honor reflects our dedication to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for military families, and we are proud to stand beside those who serve.

