MT GILEAD EV SCHOOLS

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Kara Strine, Assistant Principal
335 Park Avenue| Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338
Phone: (419) 946-5736

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Mount Gilead High School
Robert McQuate Principal
Jack Bault, Athletic Director
338 Park Avenue| Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338
Phone: (419) 947-6065

Administration
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www.MGSchools.org

The Communicator
Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools
145 N. Cherry Street
Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338

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Contact us at:
MGEV Schools
Attn: Communicator Editor
145 N. Cherry Street
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338
- or email -
info@mgschools.org

Welcome BACK to SCHOOL

STREET FAIR & OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

5-6 PM: Community & Food Vendors
Hear the Band and meet the MGMS/MGHS Fall Athletes
in front of Park Avenue & MGMS/MGHS
6-8: PM Meet the Teachers/Student Orientation
Inside Student Classrooms and School Buildings

Do you think you received this newsletter by mistake? *The Communicator* is designed for all taxpayers who reside within the Mount Gilead (Ohio) Exempted Village Schools district. However, there are postal routes that wander outside of our district. Since bulk mail is the most cost effective way to send this newsletter, and since the entire postal route has to be included, we have chosen to include those outlying routes. We hope that you will enjoy *The Communicator* anyway. If not, please pass it on to someone who may enjoy it or place in a recycling bin.

EQUIPPED, EMPOWERED, INSPIRED
MG

The Communicator

News & Updates from Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools | Summer 2025

Proudly presenting the Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools

Class of 2025



Inside this issue:

Welcome Dr. Froehlich
Summer Swing Challenge
State Test Scores Available
Rustic Romance - Prom '25
25-26 Calendar
March MATHness
Positive Financial Outlook
Meal Prices Going Up

Mount Gilead High School Honors the Class of 2025 in Heartfelt Commencement Ceremony

A proud and emotional chapter came to a close for 72 Mount Gilead High School seniors as they crossed the graduation stage on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Family, friends, teachers, and community members filled the James S. Gooding Memorial Gymnasium at 5:30 p.m. to honor the achievements of the Class of 2025 in a ceremony marked by reflection, gratitude, and celebration.

The evening began with the high school band, under the direction of Ross Runyan, performing the traditional processional. Principal Robert McQuate welcomed attendees and introduced Class President Shane Carpenter, who addressed the audience with words of appreciation and optimism. “To my fellow seniors: today marks the end of one chapter and the exciting start of another,” Carpenter said. “Let’s celebrate how far we’ve come—and all that lies ahead.”

Class Secretary Kimberly Staley followed with a message and invocation that expressed gratitude for the guidance and support of teachers, families, and the community. Her heartfelt prayer acknowledged the growth and challenges faced by the graduates and asked for continued blessings on their journey ahead.

Student Council President Rowan Fitzpatrick led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a stirring rendition of the national anthem performed by the symphonic choir under the direction of Zoey Paulus.

Principal McQuate recognized several staff members whose behind-the-scenes efforts helped bring the ceremony to life, including Mrs. Auld, Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Castricone, Mr. Bault, Mrs. Aguirre, Mr. Lewis, and the maintenance and custodial staff.



Top Salutatorian Natalie Waugh (left) and Valedictorian Ava Baker (right) address their classmates one last time.

Class Vice President Natalie Jagger then introduced the evening’s honored guests, including Superintendent Dr. Zachary Howard, members of the Mount Gilead Board of Education, Treasurer Tina Gabler, and Molly Clapper of Tri-Rivers Career Center.

The choir returned with a moving performance of *Homeward Bound*—their final piece together as seniors—before Class Treasurer Joey Baldwin introduced the keynote speaker. Superintendent Dr. Howard delivered an inspiring address centered on the importance of friendship, growth, and resilience, earning warm applause from the audience.

Mr. McQuate then recognized the Class of 2025 Salutatorians—11 in total—highlighting their academic excellence and contributions. Among them, top salutatorian Natalie Waugh delivered a thoughtful and personal speech reflecting on the class’s journey and the strength found in embracing change.

“You made it,” Waugh told her classmates. “Now you are equipped with knowledge, skills, relationships, and accomplishments. All of which you will carry with you into this next chapter.”


MGEVS Class of 2025 National Honors Society members.

2025-2026 MGEVS CALENDAR
ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Adopted by the Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools Board of Education on January 13, 2025

AUGUST 2025
- **21: Street Fair & Open House**

SEPTEMBER 2025
- **1: No School - Labor Day**
- **2: No School - Teacher Work Day**
- **3: First Day of the 2025-2026 School Year**
- 19: 2-Hour Early Release (Professional Development)

OCTOBER 2025
- 17: 2-Hour Early Release (Professional Development)
- 31: End of 1st Quarter Classes

NOVEMBER 2025
- 6: 1-Hour Early Release (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 11: 1-Hour Early Release (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- **26: No School (P/T Conference Comp Day)**
- **27-28: No School - Thanksgiving Break**

DECEMBER 2025
- 10: 2-Hour Early Release (Professional Development)
- **22-31: No School - Winter Break**

JANUARY 2026
- 1-**2: No School - New Year’s Eve/Day**
- 15: End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester Classes
- **16: No School - Teacher Work Day**
- **19: No School - MLK Jr Day**
- 28: 2-Hour Early Release (Professional Development)

FEBRUARY 2026
- **16: No School- Presidents’ Day**
- 19: 1-Hour Early Release (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 24: 1-Hour Early Release (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

MARCH 2026
- 13: 2-Hour Early Release (Professional Development)
- 27: End of 3rd Quarter
- **30-31: No School - Spring Break**

APRIL 2026
- **1-3: No School - Spring Break**
- **6: No School (P/T Conference Comp Day)**
- 17: 2-Hour Early Release (Professional Development)

MAY 2026
- **26: No School - Memorial Day**
- 30: Graduation - Class of 2026

JUNE 2026
- 2: 1-Hour Early Release - Last Day of Classes

MOUNT GILEAD
Go Indians

Dr. Zack Howard (zackhoward@mgschools.org)

Outgoing Superintendent, MGEVS

A Final Farewell from Dr. Zack Howard

Dear Mount Gilead Schools Community,

As I sign off with the community, I'd like to thank the entire school community one last time! Thank you for your support of Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools and, on a personal note, thank you for the friendships created over these last four years. Serving as the superintendent for Mount Gilead Schools has been the highlight of my career in education. Mount Gilead is a great place to be. I'm sharing my commencement message that I shared with our 2025 graduates because I believe it is a fitting way to end. The people that surround Mount Gilead Schools both internal and external are what makes MGEVS special. We have great students in Mount Gilead and the friendships that are created manifest the memories that last a lifetime. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

Dear Class of 2025,

You came into the High School 4 years ago and that happens to be when I came into the district. So, you all are pretty special to me. I think everybody aspires to enter a new chapter in life and when they leave they wish- #1 they've grown as a human being from the experience, and #2, they've left things in a better place than when the adventure began. Relationships are what I want to talk to you about because to me, they are at the epicenter of what makes an experience better. I couldn't ask to have worked with a better staff, you the students and leaders of the building (this year in particular), or in a community that has shown us all love over the past 4 years. I know I've felt it and I can't thank you all enough for that.

As we stand here today, on the brink of a new chapter in our lives, it is important to reflect on the relationships that have shaped us and supported us along the way. There is nothing on this earth that should be more treasured than a great friendship.

Friendship is a bond that transcends time and distance. It is a source of comfort, joy, and strength. It is a shoulder to lean on in times of need, a hand to hold in times of celebration, and a voice of reason in times of doubt.

So my message to you all is simple- be a good friend to others. Treat them the way you wish to be treated and don't forget to be grateful for the good friends you have. Treasure them, invest in them.

Don't forget about the friends in your life- let them know you appreciate and care about them. Be there when they need you and if they are a good friend, they will be there for you in your time of need.

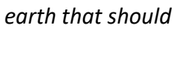
Thank you for being my friend. Thank you for the laughter and celebrations after a big game or performance, joking with me when I made it into classrooms, the memories, and the support. As we go our separate ways, I hope we will carry the lessons of friendship with us wherever we go.

May your friendships continue to enrich your lives and may you always remember the value of being a good friend. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2025 - you now join the long purple line of Mount Gilead High School graduates. From this point forward, you can do anything you put your heart, mind, and efforts behind! This entire community is behind you! Thank you, and, well done!

With Gratitude,

Dr. Zack Howard
MGEVS Superintendent

Classes for the
2025-2026 School Year
will resume on
Wednesday, September 3, 2025



The highlight of the evening came as Valedictorian Ava Baker took the stage. A scholar-athlete with 11 varsity letters, Baker's moving address paid tribute to her teachers, coaches, friends, and family—especially her parents, whose support she called "irreplaceable." Baker encouraged classmates to define success on their own terms and reminded them of their unique value in the world.

"This family has laughed together, studied side by side, and celebrated each other's victories, big and small," Baker said. "Follow your passions and be proud of your progress."

The achievements of the Class of 2025 were then proudly announced. Collectively, the class earned 605 College Credit Plus (CCP) credits—saving an estimated $124,025 in community college tuition or over $290,000 compared to Ohio State University rates. Additionally, $57,960 in scholarships had been awarded at the time of graduation, with more anticipated.

Fourteen students earned the prestigious Honors Diploma, and several graduates will go on to serve in the Armed Forces. They were recognized and applauded, alongside veterans in the audience, in a powerful moment of unity and gratitude.

With the formal presentation of the class to the Board of Education by Principal McQuate, Board President Mike Sayers conferred diplomas to each graduate. As the high school band played the recessional, Class President Shane Carpenter led the turning of the tassels, marking the official transition from student to graduate.

The Mount Gilead High School Class of 2025 exited the gymnasium for the final time as students—and entered the world as graduates, ready to shape the future with the same dedication and heart that carried them through their years at MGHS.

Congratulations to the Mount Gilead Class of 2025!



MGEVS Welcomes New Superintendent - Dr. Jeremy Froehlich

The Mount Gilead Exempted Village Board of Education has chosen their next superintendent after an expedited search. Dr. Jeremy Froehlich, assistant superintendent at Buckeye Valley Schools, will serve as the new superintendent of Mount Gilead EV Schools beginning August 1, 2025.



Dr. Jeremy Froehlich
MGEVS Superintendent

Dr. Froehlich surfaced as the top candidate for the job based on his communication skills and relatability to the Mount Gilead community, and his professional experiences during his esteemed career in education. According to Board president, Mike Sayers, "Jeremy's values and qualities align with what it means to be a Mount Gilead Indian. The Board of Education believes he will be a tremendous addition to our district and continue the tradition of excellence for Mount Gilead EV Schools."

Dr. Froehlich is an experienced educational leader. A native of Ohio, Jeremy began his career as an athletic director at Brookhaven High School in Columbus, Ohio. He then accepted a position at Buckeye Valley Local Schools as an assistant principal and athletic director. He was quickly promoted to principal of the middle school in Buckeye Valley and three years later promoted to director of operations and safety. He served as an interim superintendent and is currently an assistant superintendent in Buckeye Valley Local Schools. Dr. Froehlich earned two Master's degrees: one from Ohio University in educational administration and one in athletic administration from Ohio State University. He earned his Bachelor of Science in fiscal management from The Ohio State University and his Doctorate of Education from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. His superintendent license is from the University of Dayton.

In Jeremy's words, "I'm incredibly honored to be chosen as the next superintendent of Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools! I'm thrilled to join a school district and community known for its strong traditions, academic excellence, and outstanding extracurricular programs. It's clear that the community truly supports its schools, and I can't wait to be part of that. I'm excited to continue the great work already happening and look forward to becoming part of the Mount Gilead family!"



Dr. Jeremy Froehlich with his wife, Jasmine, and daughter, Layla, pose with members of the MGEVS Board of Education.

Jeremy has been married to his wife, Jasmine, for 27 years and they have a son, Landon (19), and a daughter Layla (12). In his "spare time" Jeremy loves to spend time with his family, cheering on the Buckeyes and officiating high school wrestling.

Dr. Froehlich was hired at a Special Board of Education meeting on April 30. He plans to be visible at events and activities throughout the summer.

Please join the Mount Gilead Exempted Village Board of Education in congratulating Dr. Jeremy Froehlich on this well-deserved honor!

Attention Alumni: If your class is having a reunion and you'd like to spread the word, or if you've already met and would like to share information or pictures, please contact *The Communicator* Editor Kelly Hand at khand@mgschools.org or (419) 947-9517 x 2218

Information & Updates to Fall Athletics

As we gear up for another year of athletics at Mount Gilead, below are some important details regarding our upcoming Fall Sports season. We will still offer a variety of fall athletic programs including Football, Cross Country, Golf (High School Only), Cheerleading, and Volleyball. We are looking forward to seeing our returning athletes and welcoming new participants to the programs.

Summer Practice and Conditioning
Many teams are hosting open gyms, workouts, and conditioning sessions throughout the summer. Please reach out to your sport-specific coach via email to get the most up-to-date information on schedules and expectations.

Final Forms and Sports Physicals
All student-athletes must have Final Forms completed and submitted, and a current sport physical (Pre-Participation Physical Exam) uploaded or turned in to their coach *prior* to participating in practices. This is essential for athlete safety and compliance with school and OHSAA regulations. The form can be found on the MGSchools.org website and in the app.



Mandatory Fall Sports Parent Meeting
Mark your calendars: The Fall Sports Parent Meeting will take place on Monday, July 28th at 6:00 PM in the High School Auditoria. This meeting is mandatory for all student-athletes and at least one parent or guardian of those planning to participate in any fall sport. We will cover important season information, policies, and expectations.

Picture Day and *NEW* Senior Banner Photos
Fall Sports team picture day and Senior Banner photo day are TBD, but will be scheduled for either the last week of July or the first week of August. Once confirmed, dates will be shared via school announcements and social media. To help alleviate costs for families, we will take ONE senior banner photo per athlete, which will include all sports the senior plans to participate in throughout the year. If you're an incoming senior who plans on participating in any Fall, Winter, or Spring sport, we strongly encourage you to attend the scheduled banner picture day if possible. For those unable to attend, additional opportunities for banner pictures will be made available before each sport's season begins.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Mount Gilead Athletic Office.
We look forward to another successful fall season.





Jack Bault (jbault@mgschools.org)
Middle & High School Athletic Departments

Athletes See Post-Season Activity in Softball, Baseball, Track & Field

This year mother nature wrecked havoc on our Spring Sports. We had many Baseball and Softball contests canceled and we even saw a couple track meets that were impacted as well.

Baseball: Our Varsity Baseball team concluded its season with an overall record of 6-19. This season was a challenge with all of the games rescheduled we would often times have to play games everyday of the week. The boys continued to battle throughout the year and ended the regular season with 2 straight wins. We also saw some athletes earn post-season honors.

Softball: The Softball team was small in numbers this year, but we were able to maintain a team for the duration of the season. The girls ended the year with a 4-14-1 record. During the season, even when things weren't going well, the girls continued to compete and work to improve their skills.

We had a couple of softball girls earn post-season honors as well.

Middle School Track and Field: Our Middle School Track teams had successful seasons. They had 10 opportunities to compete throughout the season and on the final league meet our Middle School Boys Track and Field team captured the KMAC Championship. We also had many athletes capture individual league championships. Along with our KMAC champions we had 8th graders Andrew Gannon and Levi Johnson compete at the Middle School State Meet. At the State meet Levi came home with a 5th place long jump leap of 19'9.25"!

High School Track: Our High School Boys and Girls Track teams both had tremendous numbers this season. We had more than 70 total kids within the two teams. With that many athletes we were able to add a few additional opportunities for all of our athletes to compete.

The High School Boys Track and Field team captured its 10th straight league championship while the Girls finished as KMAC Runner-Up. Both team captured District titles and, as of the time of printing, were moving on to regionals.

You can see all of our individual award winners below:

Congratulations to all of our Spring Sports Scholar- Athletes who received honors!

HS BOYS TRACK & FIELD
Tyler Miller: 1st Team 4x200m, 2nd Team 4x400m, 2nd Team 400m
Jon Miller: 1st Team 4x200m, 2nd Team 4x400m
Gage Bowersmith: 1st Team 4x200m
Tae Davis: 1st Team 4x200m, 1st Team 110m Hurdles, 2nd Team 4x400m
Will Baker: 1st Team 4x800m, 1st Team 1600m, 1st Team 3200m
Owen Hershner: 1st Team 4x800m, 2nd Team 800m, 2nd Team 1600m
Henry Bartlett: 1st Team 4x800m, 2nd Team 3200m
Liam Stalnaker: 1st Team 4x800m, 1st Team 800m, 2nd Team 4x400m
Griffin McClelland: 1st Team Shot Put
Kasen Wallace: 2nd Team 110m Hurdles, 2nd Team Pole Vault
Joey Baldwin: HM Shot Put
Carson Trainer: HM High Jump

HS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Danielle Pohlkotte: 1st Team High Jump, 2nd Team 200m, 2nd Team 400m, 2nd Team 200m, HM 100m
Kimberly Staley: 2nd Team 1600m, 2nd Team 3200m, HM 4x800m
Bailey Bault: HM High Jump
Nicole Staley: HM Long Jump
Gwen Hershner: HM Pole Vault, HM 4x800m
Haley Pfeifer: HM 4x800m
Sophie Mosher: HM 4x800M

HS BASEBALL
Hayden Somerlot: 1st Team
Cole Fricke: HM
Hayden Pangborn: All Academic

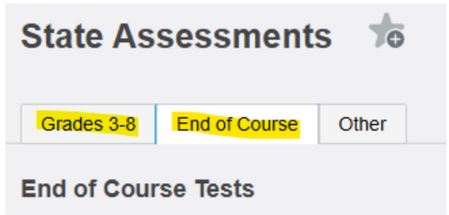
HS SOFTBALL
Trinity Schrote: 2nd Team,
Savannah Wilt: HM

MS Track & Field Champions
Jackson Keever: 4x200m
Landon Mosher: 4x200m
Treyshawn Bowie: 4x200m
Parker Grimm: 4x200m
Andrew Gannon: 1600m
Aiden McLain: 800m
Maelii Whipple: High Jump
Hayden Scales: Long jump
Ellie Rogers: Pole Vault
Talon Walsh: Pole Vault

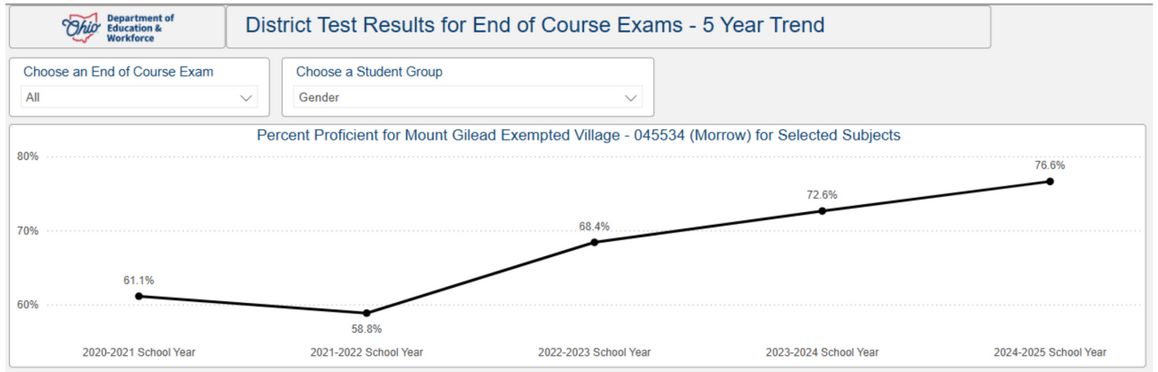
Emily Ross (eross@mgschools.org)
Director of Curriculum and Development

Have you seen your student's state test results?

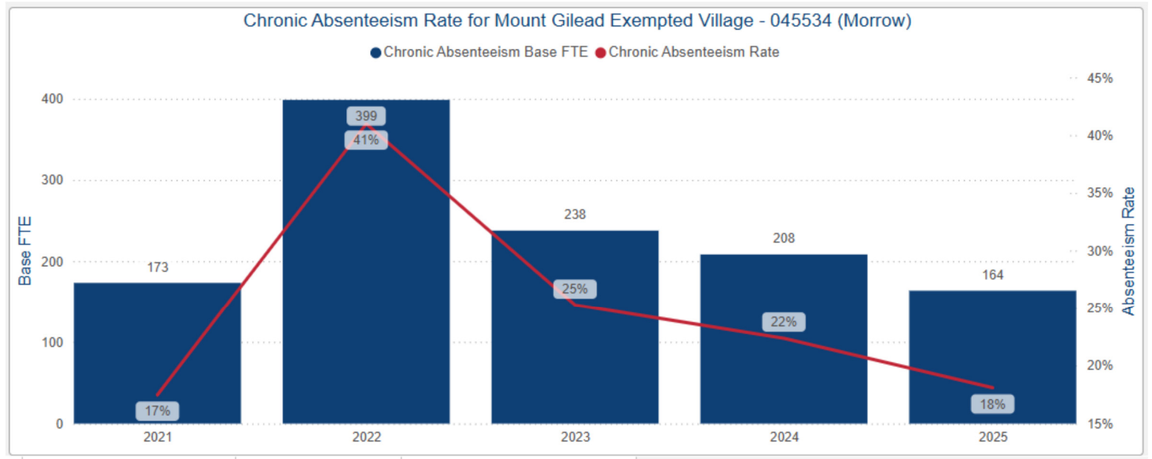
Just a reminder to all families that we no longer send home score reports for state testing beyond third grade. All state test scores are available to view in the Parent Portal in PowerSchool. All students in grades 6-12 can log in to PowerSchool via Classlink with their Google Login. Parents, you can get the link to PowerSchool from the district website: www.mgschools.org under the Families menu in the top right. In PowerSchool look on the menu for State Assessments, then click on the correct Tab (Grades 3-8, or End of Course) to see scores.



I am happy to report that our High School end of course exam proficiency rate continues to increase, reaching over 75% proficient as an average of all tests for the first time in my 6 years here. The number of students needing to retake the Algebra 1 and ELA II courses to meet graduation competency is also decreasing.



We know that the more days students are present in school the better they do academically, so we have also worked to improve attendance. One of the main metrics we track is Chronic Absenteeism, or the number of students who miss more than 10% of the school year for any reason. Whether excused or unexcused, they are still missing out on learning opportunities. This year as a district we were able to bring that rate below 20% for the first time in 4 years and we are close to the state target of 16%.



Fairy Tale Fun Takes the Stage: Park Avenue Presents *Shrek Jr. The Musical*



Cast and Crew of the Spring 2025 performance of *Shrek Jr., The Musical*

This spring, the students of Park Avenue Elementary transported audiences to a world of whimsy, laughter, and heart with their dazzling production of *Shrek Jr. The Musical*. Based on the beloved DreamWorks animated film and Broadway show, this junior version of the musical gave young performers a chance to shine as they brought the story of an unlikely hero to life.

Under the guidance of director Briana McCaffrey and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, the cast worked for weeks to rehearse lines, learn songs, and perfect their choreography. From the swampy depths of Shrek's home to the tower where Princess Fiona waited for her happily ever after, every scene was brought to life with colorful costumes, clever sets, and boundless enthusiasm.

Standout performances included Draven Lowe as Shrek, delivering laughs and heart in equal measure, and Katie Kirkpatrick as Fiona, whose powerful solos and comedic timing wowed the crowd. Peyton Snyder and Jackie Edwards stole the show as the characters of Donkey and Pinocchio, bringing endless energy and charm, while a delightful ensemble of fairy tale creatures—the Three Little Pigs, and the Gingerbread Man—kept audiences entertained from start to finish.

More than just a performance, *Shrek Jr.* taught students the value of teamwork, confidence, and creative expression. Whether singing a solo or moving a set piece behind the scenes, every child played an important role in bringing the story to life.

With packed audiences, thunderous applause, and proud families cheering them on, this production of *Shrek Jr. The Musical* was a magical reminder of what happens when imagination and community come together.

Pauley Wins Catapult Launch Contest

Congratulations to Alex Pauley for winning our annual catapult launch contest! He had a launch of 90.8 feet! We will go on the wall of fame and got to wear the legendary green jacket! This was the 15th year of this contest and we had some really creative catapults this year! Great job!
2nd place was Bentley Bierce 80.3 feet.
3rd place was Dalton Wilt 75.7 feet.
4th place was Parker Grimm with a launch of 74.8 feet.



Alex Pauley (left) shows off the coveted Green Jacket. Above: 2025 Catapult finalists.

8th Graders Compete in March MATHness

Congratulations to Alex "Larry" Foster for winning the 8th grade 2025 March Mathness. It was a close final game!! The final four included Renny Arndt, Foster, Makayla McKenzie and Maci Guy. The finals saw Guy and Foster.

Great job to all 8th graders!! As a class they collectively answered 15,976 questions and spent over 52 hours on IXL, a personalized online learning platform for students, offering a wide range of subject and skill practice problems with meaningful progress tracking.



2025 March MATHness Final Four (L-R): Renny Arndt, Alex Foster, Makayla McKenzie and Maci Guy





K-Kids Creates Leaders at Park Avenue Elementary



The Park Ave K-Kids have been busy being awesome! They had a coin war at school and donated all the money to the Morrow County Dog Shelter, Mt. Gilead, OH. The shelter allowed the K-Kids members to come out to walk dogs, help with treats, and have some fun. Thank you Sarina for all you and your volunteers do! K-Kids is a program available to all Park Avenue 5th grade students. Advisors are Mrs. Knuckles and Mrs. Martin.



Ohio Sales Tax Holiday Expanded to 14 Days

Gov. Mike DeWine announced recently that the annual Ohio Sales Tax holiday will be held this year from *August 1, 12:00 a.m. – August 14, 11:59 p.m* .

During this holiday eligible items up to $500 will be included for the tax-free purchase. Purchases can be made either in-store or online. In prior years, the holiday was only held for three days for school-related items. Maximum prices of eligible items were also much lower in previous years.

School supply lists will be posted soon on mgschool.org and in the app!

Honor & Merit Roll Available Online

You can view the students named to the 4th Quarter Honor & Merit Roll online at mgschools.org. This and all 2024-2025 lists are posted as "Honor & Merit Roll" under the "Families" tab.

Counseling, Group Meetings Available During Summer Hours



We know summer can bring its own set of challenges, and we want to remind you that Syntero offers same-day access to counseling services. If you or your student need extra support during the break, we encourage you to take advantage of this helpful resource. Visit Syntero's website or reach out to them directly for more info: https://www.syntero.org/

Other mental health resources accessible 24/7:
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE 1-800-273-TALK (8255), CRISIS TEXT LINE 988 or Chat 988lifeline.org 24HR. CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE 614-229-7000 24HR. MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS INTERVENTION 614-276-CARE (2273)

MS Art and Environmental Club Students Visit Franklin Park Conservatory

The Middle School Environmental and Art club members experienced a great trip to the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. The group saw butterflies and bloom as they toured the botanical gardens. They were also able to participate in a hands-on learning session about the Nature of Glass. Students were able to Investigate glass as a unique material and learn the science behind glassblowing. They then explored the collection of glass art by contemporary artist Dale Chihuly, and fused science with art to create their own "glass" masterpiece.



Parents Urged to Use Summer Break to Schedule Vaccination Update Appointments



As another school year approaches, it is important to ensure students are prepared with all their necessary supplies and that they are on top of all their required immunizations.
Several immunizations are required for school attendance and some children may have been delayed in getting boosters due to the pandemic.
However, it is crucial to stay on schedule with these immunizations. Immunizations save lives and protect kids from serious illnesses.
For children needing immunizations to meet State of Ohio requirements, parents and guardians can contact their family doctor, or the Morrow County Health District at (419)947-1545 x 323



Don't Miss Your Chance to Buy a 2024-25 Yearbook

High School yearbook sales end June 30.

Go to www.yearbookordercenter.com and search for Mount Gilead High School to guarantee your student will receive a 2025 Mizpah.

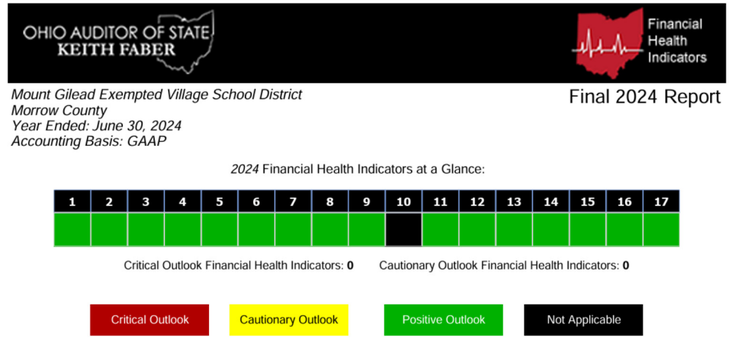
Middle School yearbooks are available in the office for a cost of $10.

Tina Gabler (tgabler@mgschools.org)

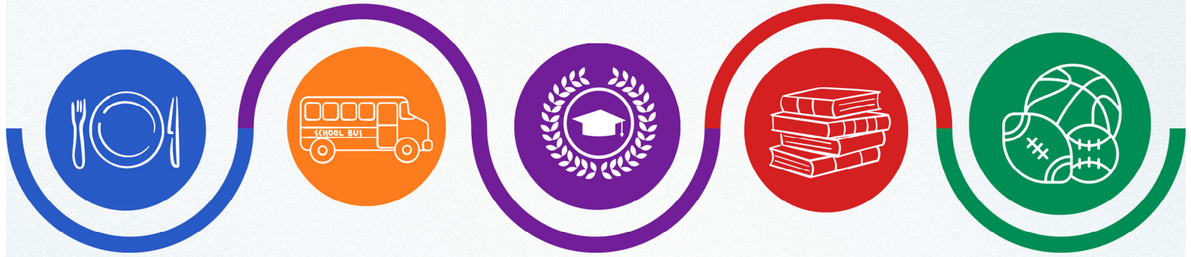
Treasurer

Positive Outlook: School Financial Health Indicators Report Indicates

Nine years ago, Keith Faber's Auditor of State's Office (AOS) launched Financial Health Indicators (FHI) for counties and cities to help identify and monitor signs of fiscal stress. On May 1, 2025, AOS made the same tools available to traditional and joint vocational school districts in Ohio. The FHI will provide early warning signs of fiscal distress so that potential issues can be addressed before they develop into major problems.
The FHI are data-driven indicators formulated from audited financial information submitted to AOS by the district. They have identified 16 different FHI that use data derived from fund balances, tax collections, debt payment, and other financial data. Each indicator will be categorized as "positive", "cautionary", or "critical" to help districts highlight financial areas that may require attention. No single indicator should be taken as a sign of fiscal stress. The goal is to ensure school districts have as much information as possible to make informed decisions for their communities.
Our 2024 Financial Health Indicator report is available on our website at MGSchools.org for your review. To find more information about the Financial Health Indicators please visit Auditor Keith Faber's website at ohioauditor.gov/FHI/default.html



THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR IN NUMBERS



MEALS SERVED	MILES DRIVEN	CCP DUAL CREDITS	BOOKS CIRCULATED	SPORTING EVENTS
Our Food Services Team served up 30,973 breakfasts and 79,400 lunches! That's 110,373 meals served in just one school year!	Our Transportation Team drove a collective 945 miles DAILY. An additional 27,000 miles were driven for athletic events and field trips.	74 students completed 939 College Credit Plus (CCP) credit hours. This equals about $201,885 when compared to community college tuition (MTC) and $381,200 when compared to OSU	A total of 22,431 books were checked out of our district libraries. That averages nearly 24 books per each student in grades K through 12.	We are proud of the facilities available to our Middle and High School student-athletes. A total of 143 home contests were held during the 2024-25 school year.



INTRODUCING...

THE SUMMER SWING CHALLENGE!

PRIZES

GIFT CARDS

END OF SUMMER POOL PARTY

This summer, we are fighting the summer slide by starting a new program.

Each student, PK-5, went home with 3 learning packets meant to help maintain and sharpen their skills over summer break. Included was a reading challenge, ELA and Math practice, and a set of flashcards for students to keep!

IT

At the end of each month, we will have several packet drop off locations where students can visit with a teacher and choose a prize/gift card!

TAKES A

VILLAGE

Need help this summer?

Drop into the Mt. Gilead Public Library for "Read with a Teacher" time each week. This time can be spent practicing reading, playing learning games, or getting help with packets!

SUMMER SLIDE PACKETS CAME HOME WITH STUDENTS THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL!



Outstanding Classified Employees Recognized with John A. Lee Award



Nominees for the 2025 John A. Lee Award were: Winner Autumn Pauley, Kim Auld, Sydney Bartlett, Taylor Hashman, Rosemary Kirkpatrick and Amy Van Tilburg

Mount Gilead Schools is proud to announce the nominees for the prestigious John A. Lee Award, which recognizes classified employees who go above and beyond to make our school community better. This year, six exceptional individuals have been nominated for their outstanding contributions.

Kim Auld, High School Secretary, has been recognized for her exceptional work in the office and her role as a community liaison. Kim's nominator praised her patience and compassion in all interactions with parents, business owners, and alumni.

Sydney Bartlett, Duty Aide at Park Avenue Elementary, has been recognized for her dedication, ambition, and positive attitude, which have made a significant impact on students and parents alike.

Taylor Hashman, Duty Aide at Park Avenue Elementary, has been nominated for her adaptability and support for students with varying needs, as well as her love for the Mount Gilead community.

Rosemary Kirkpatrick, Duty Aide at Park Avenue Elementary, has been commended for her willingness to fill in where needed and maintain a positive attitude, even when constantly being shifted around the building.

Autumn Pauley, Food Service Coordinator for Mount Gilead Schools, has been acknowledged for her exceptional planning and leadership in providing nutritious meals for students and staff.

Amy VanTilburg, Duty Aide at Park Avenue Elementary, has been praised for her commitment to ensuring a safe and encouraging school environment for students.

The John A. Lee Award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our classified employees, who play a vital role in the success of our school community.

Congratulations to Autumn Pauley who won the award for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Middle School Science Fair Highlights Students' Research Interests

Thank you so much to everyone who came out to be a part of the MGMS Science Fair on Thursday, May 15th. It takes a lot of people to make this event successful and we appreciate all the time and effort that students, their families, and the community put forth to make this possible. There were many great projects presented.

The winners of the 2025 Science Fair were:

The Superintendents Award went to 6th grader, Anna Baldwin! Anna's science project tracked the rate of bacteria growth using the saliva of different species of animals.

The Principal's Award went to 6th grader, Riley Hirt! Riley's project focused on brand testing the structural integrity of trash bags.

The 3rd Place Award went to 7th grader, Sierra Reed! Sierra conducted a sleep study that investigated how different foods affect energy levels.

The 2nd Place Award went to 6th grader Destiny Lister! Destiny investigated how different time intervals affect the amount of oil that can be extracted from flowers and made her own perfumes.

And… The 1st Place Award went to 7th grader Ellie Williams! Ellie's project examined how different amounts of air pressure affected distance that a soccer ball can be kicked. The judges were especially impressed with the kettle bell apparatus Ellie set up to ensure that the same amount of fore was applied to the ball in each trial.

Congratulations to all of our winners! Job well done!!!



The 2025 Mount Gilead Middle School Science Fair winners are (L-R): Ellie Williams, Destiny Lister, Sierra Reed, Riley Hirt and Anna Baldwin

A Night to Remember: Rustic Romance Prom 2025





Junior Class Officers: Abby Leonhard, Gauge Shipman, Camryn Travis and Cassidy Irwin

This year's prom transported students into a dreamy countryside setting with the enchanting theme **"Rustic Romance."** The evening started with the Grand March held in the elegantly decorated school gymnasium. Prom-goers then traveled to The Meadowood in Bellville where it was decorated with twinkling string lights, vintage lanterns, and burlap and lace accents that created the perfect atmosphere for an unforgettable night.

The night was filled with laughter, dancing, and plenty of photo-worthy moments. From slow dances under the fairy lights and rides on the mechanical bull, to lively group dances, the DJ (and MGHS Instrumental Band teacher) Ross Runyan kept the energy high and the dance floor packed.

One of the night's highlights was the crowning of the Prom King, Miguel Martinez, and Queen, Jillian Jones who were cheered on by classmates, family and friends. The title of Prom Prince went to Hayden Somerlot, while that of Prom Princess went to Danielle Pohlkotte



Prom Royalty: Prom Princess Danielle Pohlkotte, Prom Prince, Hayden Somerlot, Prom King Miguel Martinez and Prom Queen Jillian Jones

Rustic Romance proved to be the perfect theme, blending elegance and charm to celebrate the end of the school year in true style. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the prom committee, staff, and volunteers who helped make this magical evening a reality.





Collective photos of the MGHS Juniors (left) and Seniors (right) who attended prom.

Special thanks to Melissa Cassidy for capturing these and countless other memories at the High School

Enlisted/Veteran Alum Encouraged to Provide Information

Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools (including the Edison School) is seeking information about alumni who are currently enlisted, who have retired from the military, or who had a military affiliation before passing away. This request is the beginning to an aim to reconnect with former students, acknowledge their service, and gather data for future initiatives like veteran support programs and honoring alumni.



IMPORTANT SUMMER SWING DATES

June "Read with a Teacher" at MGPL

June 9 Ms. Manges 11am-12pm
Mrs. Bartlett 3pm-4pm
June 10 Mrs. Todd 11am-12pm
June 11 Mrs. Guda 11am-12pm
June 12 Ms. Manges 3pm-4pm
June 16 Mrs. Pidcock and Mrs. Minturn 11am-12pm
Mrs. Bartlett 3pm-4pm
June 17 Mrs. Todd 11am-12pm
Ms. Manges 1pm-2pm
June 18 Mrs. Guda 11am-12pm
June 23 Mrs. Martin 11am-12pm
Mrs. Knuckles 1pm-2pm
June 24 Mrs. Todd 11am-12pm
June 25 Mrs. Guda 11am-12pm
June 30 Mrs. Pidcock and Mrs. Minturn 11am-12pm
Mrs. Bartlett 3pm-4pm

July "Read with a Teacher" at MGPL

July 1 Mrs. Guda 11am-12pm
July 7 Mrs. Bartlett 3pm-4pm
July 8 Mrs. Guda 11am-12pm
July 9 Mrs. Whitesel 1pm-2pm
July 14 Mrs. Pidcock and Mrs. Minturn 11am-12pm
July 15 Ms. Manges 11am-12pm
Miss Dieter 1pm-2pm
July 17 Miss Dieter 1pm-2pm
Ms. Manges 3pm-4pm
July 21 Mrs. Bartlett 3pm-4pm
July 23 Mrs. Knuckles 11am-12pm
July 24 Ms. Manges 3pm-4pm
July 28 Mrs. Pidcock and Mrs. Minturn 11am-12pm
July 29 Ms. Manges 11am-12pm

August "Read with a Teacher" at MGPL

August 4 Mrs. Whitesel 1pm-2pm
August 5 Ms. Manges 11am-12pm
August 7 Mrs. Wickham 11am-12pm
August 11 Mrs. Pidcock and Mrs. Minturn 11am-12pm
Mrs. Bartlett 3pm-4pm
August 12 Mrs. Timmer 3pm-4pm
August 14 Ms. Manges 3pm-4pm



June and July Participants are invited to an End of the Summer Pool Party
August 15th from 8pm-10pm

JUNE PACKET TURN IN DATES:

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
EDISON BALL FIELDS DURING THE GAMES
MR.&MRS. DETTRA

JUNE 23,24,25
"READ WITH A TEACHER" AT MGPL

JUNE 26 1:00PM-2:00PM
HIDDEN LAKES
MRS. BARTLETT AND MRS. SYKES

JUNE 27 1:00PM-2:00PM
MG POOL FREE FRIDAY
MRS. SCOTT AND MRS. WHITESEL

JULY PACKET TURN IN DATES:

JULY 28 AND 29
"READ WITH A TEACHER" AT MGPL

JULY 31 1:00-2:00
HIDDEN LAKES
MRS. JOLLIFF AND MS. COLEMAN

AUGUST 1 1:00PM-2PM
MG POOL FREE FRIDAY
MRS. SYKES AND MS. MANGES

AUGUST PACKET TURN IN DATES:

AUGUST 21
STREET FAIR AND OPENHOUSE
ROOM 163
MRS. BARTLETT, MRS. SYKES, AND MRS. WHITESEL

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL
YOUR NEW TEACHER

Matt Gompf (mgompf@mgschools.org)

Advisor, Mt. Gilead Chapter of the FFA

Seven Earn State Degrees at Annual Convention

The 2024–2025 Ohio FFA State Convention took place on **May 1–2, 2025**, at the Ohio Expo Center & State Fair in Columbus, Ohio . This annual event serves as a significant gathering for FFA members, advisors, and supporters across the state, celebrating achievements and setting the stage for the upcoming year.

The convention featured a variety of activities, including the recognition of outstanding members and chapters, leadership workshops, and opportunities to explore agricultural careers. Additionally, the event provided a platform for exhibitors and organizations to connect with attendees, showcasing the diverse opportunities within the agricultural industry .

One of the highlights of the convention was the presentation degrees. The Ohio FFA Association offers a structured progression of degrees that recognize members' dedication, leadership, and achievements in agricultural education.

Congratulations, to our members who earned the highest honor the state association can bestow on its members, the State FFA Degree. Representatives from Mount Gilead FFA Chapter earning the degree were Garret Baldwin, Brogan Pfleiderer, Porter Beck, Shalynn Irwin, Abby Leonhard, Olesia Looker, and Lane Rizor.

To earn the State FFA Degree, members in 11th grade or higher had to meet rigorous requirements including completion of a 14-page degree application, net earning from SAE projects of at least $2,500, serve as an FFA officer or committee member, engage in at least eight FFA activities beyond the chapter level, and complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service, as well as other requirements.

Awarded annually at the Ohio FFA Convention; only about 2% of state membership receives this honor.

These degrees not only honor individual achievements but also reflect the broader mission of FFA to develop premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.



Garret Baldwin | Porter Beck | Shalynn Irwin | Abby Leonhard | Olesia Looker | Brogan Pfleiderer | Lane Rizor



Mount Gilead HS FFA members pose at the annual banquet with advisor Matt Gompf.

Basketball Programs Join Forces to Invest in State-of-the-Art Shooting Machines



Incoming Freshmen Brock Zerman , Charlie Brannon, and McKenlee Bump approve of the new machines.

The Mount Gilead Athletic Boosters, in partnership with the athletic department, Mount Gilead Youth Basketball, and the boys' and girls' basketball programs, are excited to announce the purchase of two new Shoot-A-Way basketball shooting machines. This major investment marks a significant step forward in enhancing training and development for Mount Gilead athletes. The new machines replace an aging shooting device that had been in use for more than 21 years. With cutting-edge technology, the Shoot-A-Ways provide athletes with advanced tools for individual workouts, stat tracking, and performance monitoring—empowering players to take their skills to the next level.

"This equipment is extremely exciting for our programs, as a small district our kids don't always have the same tools or opportunities as a bigger district. These machines help close that gap." said Girls Head Varsity Coach, Dani Bault. "The athletes are excited and enthusiastic to get started using the machines. They were delivered this past week and once they are set up they can get started. Since they have been delivered the kids have been stopping by everyday to ask about them. That enthusiasm is exciting to see."

Head Boys Coach Nate Davis, shared in this excitement stating, "Having the Shoot-A-Ways will be a great asset for our boys programs in many ways for the future."

Freshman Kylee Whipple added that she's excited for the new machines, "They will help me set goals and track my progress. Having the ability to get more shots up with accurate passes will definitely help improve my shooting. I've been in the gym at least 2 days a week this Spring and I know these will be a great addition."

Funding for the machines was made possible through a strong community effort. The Athletic Boosters funded 50% of the purchase, while the youth basketball program and the athletic department provided donations. To complete the project, the programs have launched a joint fundraising campaign to raise the remaining balance.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support from our boosters, our youth program, and everyone who has contributed so far," said Bault. "We still have about $5,000 dollars to fundraise over the next year. We know we can do it. The Mount Gilead community is always so supportive and invested. We know with their help we can reach the finish line and pay off the purchase of the machines."

The Shoot-A-Way machines offer a host of features, including customizable drills, instant feedback, detailed performance metrics, and the ability to measure shooting accuracy over time—tools that will undoubtedly benefit players across all age levels.

For more information on how to contribute to the fundraising campaign or to learn more about the new equipment, please contact the Mount Gilead Athletic Director Jack Bault at jbault@mgschools.org or you can Venmo a donation to @mgathletics and put Shoot-A-Ways in the memo.

Join the MGEVS Transportation Team!!!



Mount Gilead Schools are actively hiring substitute bus drivers for the 2025-2026 school year. These positions offer flexible work schedules, training, and opportunities for advancement into regular bus driver roles. Minimum requirements include a valid Ohio Class B CDL and PS endorsements, a clean driving record, and meeting physical and background check requirements.

Interested? Contact Transportation Director Lorena Boller at lboller@mgschools.org or (419)946-1646 x 5070

Sergeant Plough to serve as MGEVS SRO for 2025-2026 School Year



The MGEVS Board of Education has voted to retain the School Resource Officer (SRO) services from the Morrow County Sheriff's office for the upcoming 2025/26 school year. We are grateful for the SRO services provided to us through our agreement with the Village of Mount Gilead and Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools over the past three years.

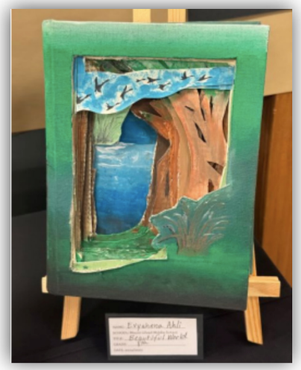
As part of our strategic plan implemented three years ago, the inclusion of a School Resource Officer in our district was deemed important by our stakeholders. We are pleased to announce that we will continue to fulfill this promise to our stakeholders as we move into the next school year and beyond.

The presence of an SRO in our schools has been instrumental in promoting a safe and secure learning environment for our students, staff, and visitors. The SRO plays a vital role in fostering positive relationships with our students and providing valuable resources and support to our school community.

We appreciate the partnership with the Mount Gilead Village to provide a School Resource Officer over the past three years in ensuring the safety and well-being of our school community.

We anticipate that Morrow County Sheriff Department's Lance Plough will serve as our SRO beginning with the 2025 -26 school year. Sergeant Plough has 19 years of law enforcement experience and eight of these years were spent as the SRO at Highland. He has completed the Ohio School Resource Officer basic training and is a certified DARE instructor. He is also a certified instructor in Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE). We look forward to working with Sergeant Plough to keep our school community safe.

Artwork by 8th Grader Wins Honorable Mention at MOESC's Artapolooza



Students of all ages represented MGEVS well at the MOESC Artapalooza 2025 held at the Mid-Ohio Educational Services Center this Spring. In all, more than 3,000 pieces of art were on display from 20 area schools.

8th Grader Evyahnna Ahli's artwork won an Honorable Mention medal at the event for her piece titled "Beautiful World". She was invited to display her artwork in a special exhibition for award winners, *The Mayor's Show: Rising Artists of Mid-Ohio* at the Mansfield Public Library.

Kindergarten Class Launches Book They Created



Students in Ms. McCaffrey's Kindergarten Class have collectively authored and illustrated a new book. Using Student Treasures Publishing to publish the book, students started by we reading a bunch of the *If You Give A*... books. They started by brainstorming the main character.

Other suggestions were a cheetah, frog and a spider. Students voted for their favorite and ultimately chose Indian as it is our school mascot. We drew lucky ducks to determine page order and then students worked in small groups to brainstorm what they wanted to write. They had to base their page off of the previous page, thinking about what would logically come next. They wrote the book on their own, with some assistance on spelling. Students also illustrated their page in the book. Principal Mrs. Schleichert illustrated the Indian on the cover. The book is available to check out in the Park Ave library.

Autumn Pauley (apauley@mgschools.org)

Food Services Director



Student Lunch Prices to Increase 25¢ District-wide

At the May 20, 2025 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved increasing school lunch prices from $2.75 to $3.00 at Park Avenue Elementary and $3.00 to $3.25 at the Middle School/High School for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Note: This will be a 3 year price guarantee. School lunch prices have not been raised in the previous 3 years. The increase in prices are determined by the USDA Meal Price Calculator. Breakfast and milk prices will not increase over the current rate.

Families Encouraged to Fill Out Free & Reduced Lunch Forms

Families across Ohio are encouraged to fill out the free and reduced lunch application to ensure their children receive the benefits they are eligible for. The application helps families access nutritious meals and also helps schools access federal funding. The Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines will be used to determine eligibility. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the federal guidelines are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Families currently enrolled will have 30 days after the start of the school year to re-apply for the 2025-2026 school year.

Food Service Substitutes Needed for '25-'26 School Year

Applications are being accepted throughout the summer for food service workers and food service substitutes. Come join a great team and work while your children are at school. No weekends, holidays, or evenings. No food service experience needed.

Work with Head Cook and other staff to represent the department and provide kid- friendly, courteous, orderly, punctual, and safe delivery of well-balanced meals to students. Assist Head Cook as needed with food preparation, serving, cooking, cashiering, dishwashing, cleanup, etc. Observe rules of cleanliness by keeping work area clean and through proper dress and grooming

8th Graders Leave the Mark before Exiting Middle School



8th graders, Evyahnna Ahli, JaylynnSherman Russell, and Arionna Kauderer continued the yearly tile painting tradition in Middle School Principal Mr. Grube's office to display school spirit and represent their graduating class.








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