

# *Buckeye Valley Local School District*

## **ELEMENTARY STUDENT GUIDEBOOK**

2025-2026



Buckeye Valley West Elementary  
4340 OH-257 South  
Ostrander, Ohio 43061

740-666-2731

Josh Martin, Principal  
Barb Gall, Assistant Principal

Buckeye Valley East Elementary  
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Leah Ann Childers, Principal  
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## Introduction to this Guidebook

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome back to school. Every school year brings students and staff a new beginning and a fresh start. Whether you are a new parent to our district or are familiar with our routines and procedures, this guidebook should help answer some of the most common questions we receive throughout the year. We hope that it will help you as you look for information.

Please know that your child's teachers, our building staff members, and administrative teams are here to help your child have the best possible experience. With that, we invite you to become our partner. After all, you are your child's first and best teacher. When we work together as a team, children find success.

We are going to have a wonderful school year. Go Barons!

Yours in Education,

Josh Martin, Principal  
Buckeye Valley West Elementary

Leah Ann Childers, Principal  
Buckeye Valley East Principal

# 25-26 District Calendar

## Buckeye Valley Local Schools 2025-2026 CALENDAR

Aug 8 Teacher Work Day  
 Aug 11 Professional Day  
 Aug 12 Inservice  
 Aug 13 First Day of School

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 5 First Day Back  
 Jan 19 Martin Luther King Day

Sept 1 Labor Day  
 Sept 15-19 Fair Days-No School  
 Sept 15 Teacher Professional Development

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Feb 16 President's Day

Oct 17 ½ TWD; ½ PD-No Students  
 End of Quarter 1

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March 13 ½ TWD; ½ PD-No Students  
 March 30-Apr 3 Spring Break

Nov 26 Conference Exchange Day-No School  
 Nov 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Apr 3 Conference Exchange Day-No School

Dec 22-Jan 2 Christmas Break  
 Dec 22 ½ TWD; ½ PD-No Students  
 End of Quarter 2

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 25 Memorial Day  
 May 28 Students Last Day  
 May 29 Teacher Workday

178 Student Days  
 188 Staff Days

(01/08/2025)

-  First and Last day of School
-  TWD/PD Day- No Students
-  No School
-  Conference Exchange Day-No Students
-  Staff Professional Development-No Students
-  Teacher Workday-No Students

# School Information

## School Hours

### Buckeye Valley West Elementary

**K-5 Regular Hours:**

Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.

Doors Open: 9:00 a.m.

Tardy Bell: 9:15

Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

\* Students eating breakfast should arrive no later than 9:05 to get to class on time.

**K-5 2-Hour Delay**

No breakfast on delayed days

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Tardy bell: 11:15 a.m.

Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

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**Preschool Regular Hours:**

Tuesday - Friday

Morning: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Preschool 1 hour delay:**

Morning: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Preschool 2-hour Delay**

Morning: 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 a.m.

Afternoon: 1:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Buckeye Valley West Elementary

**K-5 Regular Hours:**

Breakfast: 8:50 a.m.\*

Doors Open: 9:00 a.m.

Tardy Bell: 9:15

Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

\*Breakfast students can come in to eat at 8:50 a.m. Students eating breakfast should arrive no later than 9:05 to get to class on time.

**K-5 2-Hour Delay**

No breakfast on delayed days

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Tardy bell: 11:15 a.m.

Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

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**Preschool Regular Hours:**

Tuesday - Friday

Morning: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Preschool 1 hour delay:**

Morning: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Preschool 2-hour Delay:**

Morning: 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 a.m.

Afternoon: 1:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## **Emergency Closings and Delays**

Emergency closings and delays are communicated on the Buckeye Valley Local Schools website ([www.mybvls.org](http://www.mybvls.org)) and through Parent Square. **You must keep your contact information up to date via Final Forms in order to receive information on closings and delays.** In the event of an early dismissal due to inclement weather or other emergencies, parents are encouraged to have a plan if a parent or guardian won't be home. School staff communicates early dismissals through Parent Square and the school website.

## **School Fees**

School fees cover the cost of consumable materials that your child uses throughout the school year. Workbooks and art materials are just two examples of the materials that are consumed by students each year. Please pay your school fees by sending a check to the school office. You can also pay school fees via our online payschool system, linked [HERE](#). Please do not send cash. Students receiving free or reduced lunches also receive a waiver on their school fees. If school fees are a financial hardship for your family, please contact the building principal to arrange a payment schedule.

# Parent Communication

## *General Parent Communication*

Please contact your child's teacher first when a question or concern arises. If you are unsatisfied with the resolution, please contact a building principal for help.

Our staff will use phone calls and messaging through the Parent Square App to communicate with parents. Parents can send messages to teachers or administrators through the app as well. We try to respond to parents promptly, so you should expect a response within 1-2 business days. If you do not receive a response in that time frame, please contact a building administrator for assistance. ***Teachers spend their day teaching without much time to answer parents immediately. If there is something that you need immediately, it is always best to contact the office.***

If you send a non-emergent message outside of school hours (evenings, weekends, and breaks), you may not receive a response until the next school day. If you have an emergency outside of school hours, it is best to message the building principal or assistant principal so you can receive immediate help. Teachers and administrators also regularly post general information within the ParentSquare App. This information will help you stay current on what is happening in the classroom and school.

## *Other Communication*

Please contact the school front office when:

- If your child is absent from school, please state their name(s), grade(s), and reason for absence.
- When your child's mode of transportation changes.
- When someone besides the designated parents or guardians will be picking the child up after school.

# **Attendance**

## *Absences*

There is a strong relationship between student attendance and student achievement. Being in school for 95% or more of the school year is extremely important for students to get the instruction they need to be well prepared for the next school year. In a 180-day school year, students could miss an average of 1 day per month to attain a 95% attendance rate.

Parents are encouraged to make appointments, plan vacations, and complete errands outside school hours to help their students remain in school as much as possible. The Buckeye Valley Board of Education Policy manual has information about student absences, excuses, and truancy if you want to learn more about our attendance policies.

If your student will be absent from school, please call the school office the morning of the absence. If your child has an appointment, please ask for an excuse and send it to school with your child the next day. If your child does not have an appointment, a written note from the parent/guardian will suffice as long as your student isn't on an attendance mediation plan.

Please schedule family vacations and trips by the school calendar to avoid absences. If the trip is unavoidable, the parent must complete a vacation request form from the school office to obtain approval before the trip. The principals will consider student attendance rates, academic needs, and testing schedules before a vacation is approved.

## *Parent and School Partnership*

Our elementary schools value our partnership with parents. When we work together, we can ensure that your child has a successful experience. Should you have any concerns about your child and their educational needs, please contact your child's teacher or a building administrator for assistance.

Another important aspect of parenting a school-aged child is being your child's first and best teacher. The following is a list of parental responsibilities that are strongly encouraged to prepare your child for success in school and life.

- **Support school personnel in developing and maintaining a well-disciplined and safe school.**
  - Call the school with any safety concerns (If you see/hear something, say something)
  - Encourage your child to make safe choices
  - Encourage your child to report when they witness harmful behavior.
  
- **Teach children how to be responsible for their actions.**
  - Encourage honesty, even when it's hard to tell the truth.
  - Teach your child how to handle themselves when they've made a mistake
  - Support the school with disciplinary consequences
  
- **Teach children socially acceptable standards of behavior, including respect for themselves, other people, and property.**
  - Model respectful interactions with others.
  - Encourage positive choices and leadership in your child.
  
- **Maintain interest in your child's schoolwork, activities, and academic progress.**
  - Require children to have prompt and regular attendance
  - Attend parent/teacher conferences and other meetings
  - Check their bookbag and discuss their work with them – Did you try your best? What went well on this assignment? What do you want to work on improving next time?
  - Commit to good reading habits daily.

## *Volunteers*

We welcome volunteers to help with classroom needs, field trips, and school-wide events. Watch for opportunities by reading posts and messages on Parent Square.

Adults chaperoning field trips or working directly with students must fill out a volunteer application and pass a criminal background check before approval. Background checks can take up to 30 days, so apply early.

When volunteers arrive at school, they must follow the school sign-in procedures, including Raptor system approval. Please provide a driver's license or state-issued identification at arrival. Other children and family members cannot accompany parent volunteers in the classroom or on field trips.

## **Classroom Snacks and Parties**

### Celebrating Special Events

Birthday treats are not required, but some students enjoy celebrating by bringing in a treat for classmates. Parents should make arrangements with their child's teacher in advance.

Requirements for treats:

- Treats should be in the store's original packaging with ingredients clearly labeled.
- Treats should be small, quick, and easy.

### Parties

Classroom or school-wide parties happen on occasion. Teachers may involve parents in the events by asking them to volunteer or to send in an item or two. Treat donations follow the exact requirements as birthday treats. Siblings are not allowed to accompany parents volunteering to help with classroom parties.

### *Valuable Property*

Students are not allowed to bring valuable property to school without permission from the teacher and/or building administrators. **Buckeye Valley Schools do not accept responsibility for the loss of personal property.**

## **Academic Progress**

### ***Reporting Academic Progress***

Academic progress is available to parents through report cards (quarterly), messages sent home (as needed), and at parent-teacher conferences (two times per year). Students on individualized educational plans (IEPs) also have quarterly progress reports. Please contact your child's teacher or school with any concerns about academic progress.

### ***Promotion/Retention/Placement/Acceleration***

At the end of the school year, students are promoted, retained, or placed at the school year's end. Retentions are not a surprise. Any retention discussions include the parents/guardians as an essential part of the team making the decision.

Grade or subject acceleration occurs when a student has demonstrated achievement and measured ability that significantly exceeds those of grade-level peers. All accelerations remain a part of gifted and talented services.

## **Student Support and Services**

### ***Student Services***

Buckeye Valley Local Schools is a district that follows the Multi-Tier Systems of Supports (MTSS) Model and complies with the mandates of Section 504 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Students struggling academically and/or socially are served mainly within the general education classroom. Students may participate in academic and behavioral interventions designed by the teacher and/or the educational team within their classrooms.

In addition, services may be provided within or beyond the general classroom to promote students' academic, language and social development based on student data. Services at this level may be offered short-term by speech pathologists, reading specialists, intervention tutors, and intervention specialists.

For students experiencing difficulties over time, the educational team may consider a referral to the MTSS team. The team includes the child's parent/guardian, teacher, district representative, and appropriate specialists. This team designs an intervention plan that addresses the student's areas of need and monitors their progress over time. Special education services are available to students with disabilities. Students evaluated under IDEA may be eligible for services if their disability substantially impacts their education and requires specialized instruction. Parents are encouraged to work with the building principal to plan their child's educational plans and evaluations. The ultimate goal of the Student Services department is to design educational plans that promote student performance in academics, behavior, language, citizenship, and well-being.

## *Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)*

MTSS stands for "Multi-Tiered Systems of Support." It is a part of our schools' commitment to high-quality instruction and the highest achievement for each student. MTSS is a framework that many schools use to prevent gaps in learning and to give students the support they need. Our MTSS process addresses academic needs, behavior, and attendance.

Within MTSS, there are three levels of instruction and intervention.

**Tier 1:** Instruction for all students.

All students participate in tier 1 instruction throughout the day. Tier 1 includes our primary curriculum for each subject. 80% of our students have their achievement and growth needs met during Tier 1 instruction.

**Tier 2:** Instruction for some students. When students show us that they could use extra help in reading or math, they join an intervention group during our Baron Period. They meet 2-3 days per week in 30-minute sessions. These small groups focus on learning gaps or skills with the idea that the extra support will help them find success on grade-level work. Some students need intervention for short periods, while others may need a small group for months or years.

**Tier 3:** Instruction for a few students. Tier 3 interventions are the most intense, as students meet with a specialist 5 days a week to work on skills. Students move to Tier 3 when their learning gaps are significant, or they aren't responding to the other tiers of instruction.

**Problem-Solving Meeting:** Part of the MTSS framework includes problem-solving meetings where teachers, specialists, and parents collaborate to discuss a student's progress and what strategies might help the student. If a parent wishes to request an MTSS problem-solving meeting, they can call or message their child's teacher with the request.

## *Preschool*

Buckeye Valley offers a half-day preschool program for students with special needs and peer role models. The students attend Tuesday through Friday during the hours listed below.

MORNING SESSION: 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

In the event of a delay, preschool hours are as follows:

1 Hour Delay: MORNING SESSION: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

2 Hour Delay: MORNING SESSION: 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m.  
AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

## *School Counseling*

Buckeye Valley offers a school counseling program at both elementary schools. Among their many roles, school counselors are responsible for monthly classroom lessons, small groups based on student needs, college and career readiness, and individual student needs.

## **Behavior Information**

### *PBIS (Positive Behavior Instruction and Support)*

PBIS stands for "Positive Behavior Instruction and Support." It is the behavioral component of MTSS where we work to maintain a culture and climate that encourages them to make good choices supporting their learning. You may hear your student discussing Baron Bucks, Core Values, Shout Outs, expectations, and The Baron Way. All of these activities support all students as Tier 1 instruction. When a child has consistent behavioral interruptions, tier 2 or tier 3 interventions support our staff with more intensive ways to help students with their behavior.

School personnel follow the disciplinary procedures as outlined in the student handbook.

### *Personal Communication Devices*

The student handbook addresses the use of cell phones during the school day, including smartwatches and personal communication devices. Not only is this for the safety and well-being of all students, but also to reduce distractions from learning. Cell phones and smart watches are to remain in a student's backpack for the school day. Students are not permitted to text or call parents during the school day without permission from the teacher or other school personnel. We will help students make contact with home from the school office if needed.

## *Playground Information and Rules*

### Playground Clothing and Temperatures

Plan on outdoor activities when the temperature is 20 degrees F or above, including wind chill. Clothing (coats, hats, gloves, shoes) makes a difference when students play outdoors. Please send them with appropriate attire.

### Recess Expectations

#### 1. Be respectful

- Use school-appropriate language
- Be kind and include others
- Listen to adults

#### 2. Be responsible

- Leave all electronics at home or in your backpack (including cell phones or smart watches)
- School supplies stay inside the school
- Follow the rules of the game you are playing
- Take turns and take your “outs.”

#### 3. Be safe

- Walk when exiting or entering the building.
- Keep your hands, feet, and body to yourself
- Use the equipment as directed
- Only leave the playground with permission from an adult.

## *School Bus Rules and Regulations*

If you have a school bus concern, please contact the bus driver first to resolve it. Please contact school personnel if you feel your concern is still unresolved. **Parents/Guardians or any unauthorized individuals are not allowed to board or impede the orderly boarding or departing of students on school buses.**

Students riding any Buckeye Valley school bus must demonstrate appropriate behavior. Safety is our main concern. Every student’s behavior while riding on a bus affects everyone else’s safety. Students whose behavior does not meet the expectations of appropriate bus behavior will be subject to disciplinary action from the building administration.

# Before and After School Programs

## **Y-Club**

The YMCA provides before- and after-school programming and is available to all families. The YMCA Y-Club will offer programming in the summer. Visit the BV website or call the YMCA at 614-839-9622.

*Y-Club will operate on Delay Hours in case of a school delay.  
In the event of a school closure, Y-Club will be CLOSED.*

## **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is important to our school community. The PTO provides support in all aspects of our educational program. We encourage all parents to become involved in the PTO. Whether your work schedule is day or evening, there are ways to involve yourself in supporting education. You can join the PTO by signing up at open houses or with the beginning of school paperwork. Please visit the school website for more PTO information.

## **Compliance Statement**

Buckeye Valley Local School District complies with the provisions of IDEA, VI, Title IX, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It does not discriminate against applicants, employees, students, parents, members of the general public, and individuals with whom it does business based on race, color, national origin, citizenship status, creed, religion, sex, economic status, age, or disability. Inquiries concerning this policy should be directed to the BV Compliance Officer at (740)363-6626.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available for all students, regardless of race, national origin, disability, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or marital or parental status. Further, educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students. Buckeye Valley does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, age, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, status as a parent, or pregnancy in its programs and activities.

# **District Mission, Vision, and Core Beliefs**

## *Mission and Vision*

“Where Tradition Meets Innovation”  
~*Buckeye Valley Schools Vision Statement*

“Engaging and Inspiring Individuals to Thrive in an Ever-Changing, Diverse Society”  
~*Buckeye Valley Schools Mission Statement*

## *Core Beliefs*

At Buckeye Valley Local Schools, we believe

1. Our work is student-focused.
2. We show compassion, empathy, kindness, and respect.
3. We honor a tradition of excellence, hard work, and resilience.
4. We are an inclusive community that embraces diversity and opportunity for every student.
5. Our communication is collaborative, relevant, and transparent.
6. We are driven to provide high-quality education through rigor, creativity, innovation, and continuous improvement.

## District Level Leadership

### *Buckeye Valley Administration Office*

679 Coover Road  
Delaware, Ohio 43015  
740-369-8735  
740-363-7654 (fax)

#### *Administration:*

Ric Stranges, Superintendent  
Brian Orrenmaa, Chief of Academic Affairs  
Jeremy Froehlich, Assistant Superintendent  
Kelly Ziegler, Treasurer  
Cassie Holewinski, Director of Technology  
LeAnna Ford, Director of Student Services

#### *Board of Education:*

Donald Dicke, President  
Tom Ailabouni, Vice President  
Mary Kate Pembroke  
April Scowden  
Troy Jeffrey

#### *Additional Phone Numbers*

High School Office.....740-363-1349  
Middle School Office.....740-363-6626  
East Elementary Office.....740-747-2266  
West Elementary Office .....740-666-2731

**Visit us on the web: [www.buckeyevalley.k12.oh.us](http://www.buckeyevalley.k12.oh.us)**