



THE BLUE DEVIL DISPATCH

NOVEMBER 2025

DON'T FORGET TO



As we enter November, we're thankful for the partnership of our families in supporting learning from preschool through 12th grade. This season is a wonderful time to reflect on progress and set new goals for growth. Whether it's reading together, practicing math skills, or discussing what your child is learning, every moment of engagement helps our students thrive.

Lower School conferences will be held on **November 6th, 11th, and 13th from 3–6 p.m.**, and Upper School conferences will take place on **December 3rd from 4–7 p.m.** We look forward to connecting with you to celebrate your child's successes and plan for continued growth!

School Attendance

From the Attendance Office

Please notify the office first thing in the morning by phone, email, or note if your child will be leaving school early. Without prior notice, there may be a delay in getting your student to the office for dismissal, which could cause you to be late for your appointment. Lower School parents should also inform their child's teacher. Thank you for your cooperation!



🍎 Lower School 🍎



Parent Teacher Conferences-Lower School

November 6th, 13th, and 20th from 3-6pm. Please schedule time with your child's teacher if you have not already done so!

2025-2026 Yearbook Purchase!

Purchase your child's yearbook today on Josten's website

<https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09878534>



Grades K-4 Wear PINK!!!

Duane Abel, Cartoonist

We have a Cartoonist coming to The Campus of Wickliffe for grades K - 4 on Friday, November 21, 2025! His most famous character, Zed, is PINK! Please have your child wear pink on Friday, November 21, to help celebrate! Thank you!

🎓 Upper School Info 🎓

Keeping Wickliffe Safe Together

At Wickliffe Upper School, student safety and well-being are our top priorities. We want every student and family to know that help is always available when something doesn't feel right.

Our Tip Line/Reporting Form provides a confidential and anonymous way for students, parents, and community members to report concerns that could affect the safety or peace of mind of our school environment.

Reports can include issues such as:

- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation
- Threats, violence, or weapons
- Cyberbullying or online safety issues
- Vandalism or suspicious activity
- Mental health concerns and student well-being

Each report is reviewed by school administrators to ensure that concerns are addressed promptly and appropriately.

We encourage families to talk with their children about the importance of speaking up when they see or hear something that doesn't seem right. Together, we can maintain a school community that is caring, safe, and supportive for every student.

To access the form, visit:



[Wickliffe Upper School Tip Line/Reporting Form](#)



Parent Teacher Conferences-Upper School

December 3rd from 4-7pm

Get your Yearbooks!

Wickliffe Upper School 2025–2026 Yearbook – Pre-Order Now!

The 2025–2026 yearbook for Wickliffe Upper School is now available for pre-order exclusively through Jostens. This is a pre-order only sale, so be sure to reserve your copy today! Order Here:

https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1048094/Wickliffe-Upper-School/2026-Yearbook/2025072504291880051/CATALOG_SHOP

By ordering now, you ensure your spot in the yearbook and help the school plan for the appropriate number of copies. Don't miss out on this opportunity to commemorate the 2025–2026 school year!

Have questions? Reach out to Mrs. Sharp (gayle.sharp@wickliffecsd.org) the Upper School Yearbook Advisor.



Career Fair

Dr. Balduff and Ms. McNulty will be collaborating again with many businesses, colleges, and the military for our High School Career Fair on November 25, 2025. It is from 9:20am - 11:20am in the Blue Gymnasium. Lunch will also be provided by Chick-fil-A. They hope to have as many corporations present to speak with all the high school students about their careers, career pathways, and the life skills that they use each day!



If you would like a table at the Career Fair, please see the flyer and contact either:

Larry Balduff - Larry.balduff@wickliffecsd.org

OR

Kelly McNulty - Kelly.mcnulty@wickliffecsd.org

Highlights From Our Campus

🐾 Paws on Learning 🐾

In Mrs. Fall's classroom, learning comes in many forms—but some of the most important lessons aren't found in textbooks. They come with a wagging tail and a gentle nudge from our therapy dog, Bruce.

A few times a month, Bruce visits our classroom with his owner Gail Willis. The excitement builds the moment those paws cross the threshold. Smiles spread wide, hands reach out, and the room grows a little brighter. For many of our students, Bruce is more than just a visitor—he's a friend who listens without judgment, offers comfort without words, and reminds us all of the power of kindness.

Students simply sit close by, stroking his soft fur, finding calm and reassurance in his presence. Even students who sometimes struggle to connect with others open up when Bruce is near. "It's amazing to watch," says Mrs. Fall. "The dog brings out confidence, joy, and calm in ways that we can't always do ourselves. He has a gift for reaching every child in the room."

In a classroom where challenges are met with patience and resilience every day, Bruce reminds us that love and healing often come in the simplest forms—a wag, a cuddle, a moment of quiet connection.

We are grateful to have this special friend in our school, showing our students (and teachers, too) that sometimes the best lessons come on four paws.





📖 Reading Time! 📖

Mrs. Fall's class is enjoying their monthly library story time with Mrs. Wallenhorst from the Wickliffe Public Library. This month, we read about pumpkins and leaves! We had fun doing fall activities!!

The LAB After School Program

The LAB After School Program for students in grades 3-6 started on October 6. The program is solely funded through a 21st Century Learning Grant. LAB meets Monday-Thursdays from dismissal until 5:20 pm. Students complete homework, receive academic support in reading and mathematics, and participate in multiple enrichment opportunities, including a cooking class, hands-on STEM activities, field trips, mentoring and more. Our first few weeks have been fun, educational, and busy! We took two field trips while the weather

was nice: One to Lake Farmpark and then to the Holden Arboretum. We held a Family Night on October 21. Over 70 people were in attendance. Everyone was treated to a light dinner, then students and their siblings participated in creating some fun fall crafts, while parents and guardians paid a visit to the Wickliffe Family Resource Center. We are looking forward to another fun-filled and educational year in the After School Program.



Learn, Lead, Serve (LLS)

Learn. Lead. Serve. – October Highlights

It's been a busy and inspiring month in *Learn. Lead. Serve.* (LLS)! Our students have been engaging in hands-on community learning experiences that build leadership, connection, and service-mindedness right here in Wickliffe and beyond.

Chili Cook-Off Collaboration

LLS partnered with the Family Resource Center (FRC) for our Chili Cook-Off Pregame Event on October 24th. Teams crafted delicious chilis while the community sampled and voted for their favorites. Our *celebrity judging panel* included Derrick Speights of the James Beard Impact Award winning Edwins Leadership and Restaurant Institute, Erin Behm of Gateway Diner, Manus McCaffery of the Wickliffe Police Department, and Upper School Principal, Nick Gallo, all experts in culinary excellence and community spirit!

Judges' Choice: *Hot Mess Express*

Community Choice: *Bean There, Done That*

The event also featured a "Stuff the Van" drive for toiletries, collecting generous donations for our WickKloset. Thank you to everyone who contributed! Your kindness helps ensure dignity and support for families in need. Please continue to donate toiletries as you're able—every contribution makes a difference.

The **Chili Cook-Off generated \$370 in funds for Wickliffe's annual Thanksgiving Good Neighbor Program**, providing meals for local families during the holidays. **A huge thank-you to Family**

Resource Center Director, Katellynn Guerbach, for her leadership and collaboration. Through this project, students practiced stewardship—this time, through chili!

LakeTran and [Blue Devil Go Passes](#)

LLS students also learned from LakeTran about the importance of public transportation in supporting community health and accessibility. Students explored how to use their Blue Devil Go passes (which provide free rides for students; visit [embedded link](#)) and enjoyed boarding the bus for a hands-on experience. Special thanks to Dale Wiechelman and Driver, Ashley, for their generosity, time, and personable guidance.

[Rust Belt Riders](#), [Bio Bags](#), and LLS Collab with Sixth Grade

We also welcomed Rust Belt Riders as our new composting partners! Our LLS and sixth-grade students are learning about soil health and composting on Halloween, and will soon make their own counter composting bins to take home along with engaging activities to learn about soil. BioBags has generously donated compostable bags in various sizes for students to use at home and in school lunches. Community composting tumblers are located on the north side of the building (near the garden) and the east-side entrance, helping our cafeteria continue Rust Belt's mission to "feed people, not landfills."

Ohio City Farm

A small group of Learn. Lead. Serve. students recently volunteered alongside Mayfield Service Learning at Ohio City Farm, one of the largest urban farms in the United States. Operated by Re:Source Cleveland, the farm empowers immigrant newcomers by providing employment and agricultural training while supplying fresh, healthy produce to local residents and restaurants. Students learned firsthand how urban agriculture supports community health, sustainability, and food equity, while contributing to meaningful work that connects people across cultures. This partnership gave our students a deeper understanding of service, collaboration, and the power of local action in building stronger, more inclusive communities.

Pumpkins at Trunk or Treat

Thanks to the generosity of Sweetberry, students designed and crafted pumpkins for the elementary school's Trunk or Treat raffle. Though the weather caused a few "design surprises," students learned the art of creativity and flexibility—and plan to repair and re-raffle before Halloween during lunch!



LLS



LLS



LLS

Wick Parents ~ We appreciate YOU!



Miss McNulty welcomed the parents of her students into her Life Skills and Career Classes. The parents shared with the students all about their careers, the paths they took, and the life skills that they use daily!

Some of the careers that the students learned more about were: being a counselor, nurse, engineer, project manager, insurance claims adjustor, etc.

Thank you, parents, for taking your time to come in and share with your child and his/her classmates about the important careers you have and how you make a difference in this world!

🔦Spotlight on Students🔦

Trinity Jackson and Khole Scott came into Miss Mc's class to inform the Life Skills' students about the Allied Medical CTE program!



These two amazing, remarkable, and determined students are working hard and diligently learning about the Medical Field as High School Juniors.

At this time, Trinity is planning to become an Ultrasound Technician and Khloe an anesthesiologist! They both will soar and succeed in ALL that they do, and will definitely be making a difference in our world!



Wickliffe Upper School is proud to announce that 6 high school students have been chosen to be in this year's Ohio Music Education Association's District 4 and 7 Honor Choirs.



Singing in the Mixed Choir will be September McKellar (12th), Cadence Crowder (10th), Grant Elsing (11th), and Chris Swaffield (10th). Singing in the Treble Choir will be Georgia Boukouvala (11th) and Basil Helmick (10th).

Students will learn 5 challenging choir pieces on their own and then come together mid November for a few hours of rehearsal to put it all together. They will learn from notable master conductors in the field of choral music and collaborate with other fine musicians from the Cleveland area. Congratulations to these outstanding musicians! We are positive that you will represent Wickliffe well.



The Swing Band is excited to present our end of season concert on Wednesday, November 5 at 6:00 PM. This performance will see the band play through a season of amazing music, including music by Katy Perry, some electronic music, and even some punk rock! Please join us as we close out the 2025 marching season with a phenomenal performance. And of course we will the 56-year tradition, a performance of Aquarius!

NEWSLETTERS



Access the Family Resource Center newsletter [here](#)! Stay in the know about things like Primary Care and Dental services through Signature Health, Community Laundry events, county services such as HEAP/PIPP, and so much more!

Click here for the FRC Newsletter!



Tiara Durrah

Tiara is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters