THE BLUE DEVIL DISPATCH

JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year

From the Superintendent

Hello Wickliffe!

For those I haven't yet had the chance to meet, my name is Mike Chokshi, and I'm honored to serve as Superintendent of Wickliffe City Schools. I began my work at the start of this school year, grateful for the strong foundation built by the district's past leaders. In these first months, I've truly appreciated the connections that have been made and the thoughtful feedback you've shared. It's already helping shape our path forward. I believe in leading with openness, which means sharing my journey with you and working together on the important work ahead for our district.

I began my career as a social studies teacher and coach, learning that education thrives in classrooms, on the field, and through personal connections. For thirteen years, I served as a principal in Lake County, followed by seven years as Assistant Superintendent in Painesville City Schools. These experiences across every level of Lake County's education system have shown me that effective district leadership means listening, building trust, and making tough decisions with students' best interests at the center.

I chose Wickliffe because of the exceptional foundation that you all built. Wickliffe Schools offer a strong academic program, a beautiful new campus and buildings, and a dedicated, talented team of teachers and support staff.

My focus is to protect this excellence for every student in our care. That is why I must speak directly about some of the significant challenges we now face. Following the two failed levies in 2025, I know that we will have to reckon with some changes here at the Wickliffe City Schools.

First and foremost, we must ensure the district's stability, which means reducing our operating budget by a little more than $2 million annually. We will have to make some smart, but substantial, changes to our programs, staffing, and services. We will approach this difficult task with the utmost care, prioritizing our core educational mission.

There will not be many easy choices ahead, and I think we all understand that. Even so, I am confident in Wickliffe's resilience and in the strength of our students and families. We can face this reality together with transparency, shared purpose, and a clear focus on our students. We will navigate this successfully and build a more sustainable path forward for our schools and our community. I will do everything I can to keep you informed and engaged as we take on this work.

Thank You,
Mike Chokshi
Superintendent, Wickliffe City School District

School Attendance

From the Attendance Office

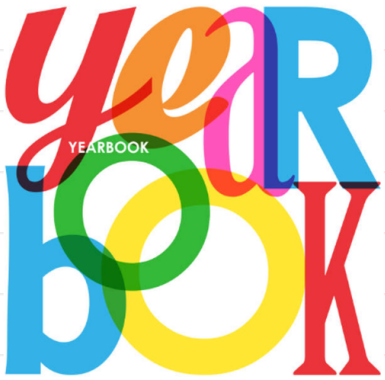
The new attendance law requires schools to count all absences, both excused and unexcused, when we review student attendance. If your child is absent or sick for 10 or more days/65 or more hours, a doctors note is required. This helps us keep accurate records and support your child when they return to school.

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 🍎

2025-2026 Yearbook Purchase!

Purchase your child's yearbook today on Josten's website
https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09878534



Upper School Info

Partnership with Willoughby-Eastlake Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs

Dear Wickliffe Families,

We are excited to share some important updates about the opportunities available to our students through new and continued partnerships.

Beginning next school year, Wickliffe City Schools will partner with Willoughby-Eastlake Schools to provide access to their Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs for our incoming juniors. This collaboration opens the door for our students to explore a wide range of hands-on, career-focused pathways that prepare them for success in college, the workforce, and beyond. At the same time, we are proud to continue our strong partnership with Mentor Schools, ensuring that our seniors remain in their current programs.

Even in challenging financial times, these partnerships highlight our commitment to providing Wickliffe students with meaningful opportunities that build skills and prepare them for life after graduation. We remain focused on expanding pathways for students while being fiscally responsible in every decision.

Here is the brochure link for Willoughby- Eastlake's CTE Open House along with the Recruitment Presentation that was given to our students.

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

Get your Yearbooks!

Don't miss out! Order your **Wickliffe Upper School Yearbook** today!
While there, feel free to create a personalized recognition ad for your graduating senior.
Capture the memories, the moments, and everything in between.
Price: $63
Order here: https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1048094/Wickliffe-Upper-School/
Secure your copy before they're gone!

Hightlights From Our Campus

Wickliffe Upper School Student Council News

The Wickliffe Upper School Student Council proudly hosted a successful community blood drive this week, bringing students, staff, and families together for an important cause. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, 23 units of blood were collected—enough to help save up to 69 lives. This year's drive was especially exciting, with 11 first-time donors stepping up to make a difference. Their participation reflects the growing engagement and compassion within our school community.
A huge thank-you to everyone who volunteered, donated, or helped spread the word. Your efforts truly made an impact!

Blood Drive

Blood Drive

Learn, Lead, Serve

Our LLS students recently had two powerful learning experiences focused on empathy, community health, and leadership as we transition to winter.
First, students met with EMT students and Jonathan Lee, CEO of Signature Health. Mr. Lee shared his personal story of recovery and how it inspired the creation of Signature Health. His message was impactful and deeply meaningful for our students.

LLS students also partnered with Perry Service Learning students to host a Poverty Simulation facilitated by Dione DeMitro, President and CEO of United Way. This simulation helps students better understand the challenges faced by individuals and families experiencing homelessness and poverty. We are grateful to the many community volunteers and local agencies who supported the event, as well as to Ms. DeMitro for sharing her own story with our students.

Special thanks to the Buser Family Foundation for sponsoring lunch, Vittorio's Buon Appetito for a generous meal donation, Texas Roadhouse for salad and rolls, and David "Big Country" Griffith and his family for providing Starbucks coffee. Their generosity helped make the day even more special.

We are also thrilled to celebrate Emma Sulyok, who earned the Service Student Award for the first quarter. Emma volunteers weekly at Sew 4 Service, in addition to supporting our lower school during lunch, recess, and PBIS times. Thanks in part to Emma's outstanding dedication and volunteerism, Sew 4 Service was awarded a $1,000 grant—a well-deserved recognition for both Emma and the organization.

Our second quarter Service Student Award is Leigha Blaztik Leigha works with Wickliffe Lower School students serving with Ms. Negin. Additionally, Leigha's class leadership and work on our social media accounts shows responsibility, enthusiasm, and dedication to volunteerism and working with our youth. Her communication and genuine efforts to be both part of and a steward of our community is exemplary.

LLS was thrilled to host our Community Holiday Movie Night on December 5. The event drew a wonderful crowd, and the Holiday Mingle was a festive hit—complete with personalized ornament-making, a hot chocolate bar, and plenty of popcorn. Guests enjoyed lively trivia rounds, with several winners earning complimentary popcorn or hot chocolate. It was a joyful evening of celebration, connection, and community spirit!

On December 8th, students led a Lasagna Love event with our FRC Director, Katelynn Gurbach, at our Wickliffe Senior Center. Seniors paired with groups of LLS seniors to craft lasagnas for those who requested them through the Lasagna Love platform. The second phase of this volunteer project will be in connecting with registrants and delivering them with placesettings hand crafted with a previous volunteer immersion at Sew 4 Service.

The New Year will continue our community health training on Narcan, Deterra, relationships with substances, and substance recovery with Signature Health and the Lake County Health District.

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WCS PTO

Meeting is January 14, 2026 from 6:30 - 7:30

Google Meet: https://meet.google.com/qux-rjhw-nqb

Facebook Live: https://www.facebook.com/WCSDPTO

WCS FRC

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!

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Tiara Durrah

Tiara is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters