

ACCENT

CENTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 2 - SUMMER 2025

Centerville Education Foundation honors educators, supporters

During their annual Hall of Fame banquet, the Centerville Education Foundation celebrated 19 exceptional individuals for their dedication to Centerville City Schools, the community, and the advancement of education. This year's Hall of Fame inductees included:

- ▶ **Amy Mount**, preschool teacher at Primary Village North, Outstanding Educator
- ▶ **Lauren Jessup-Aiken**, Centerville High School Class of 2025, Outstanding Student
- ▶ **Dr. Bob S. Carter**, neurosurgeon and member of the CHS Class of 1981, Distinguished Alumnus
- ▶ **Emily Denlinger**, Centerville Safe founder, Citizen Advocate
- ▶ **Jodi Fairbanks**, Centerville Jazz Band color guard director, Special Service
- ▶ **Mindy Cline**, principal at Primary Village North and member of the CHS Class of 1986, Lifetime Achievement

Each school selected a recipient for the Excellence in Education awards:

- ▶ **Christy Mason**, Primary Village North
- ▶ **Jodi Gonzalez**, Primary Village South
- ▶ **Tammy Mauro**, Cline Elementary

- ▶ **Stephanie Johnson** and **Erin Wallace**, Driscoll Elementary
- ▶ **Debbie Stebbins**, John Hole Elementary
- ▶ **Sarah Clark**, Normandy Elementary
- ▶ **Melodie Spencer**, Stingley Elementary
- ▶ **Candy Sweigert**, Weller Elementary
- ▶ **Joe Yuppa**, Magsig Middle School
- ▶ **Carrie Collins**, Tower Heights Middle School
- ▶ **Judy Hensley**, Watts Middle School
- ▶ **Marion Delatore**, Centerville High School

The Centerville Education Foundation was founded in 1983 to enrich the education program in Centerville City Schools. Visit centervilleeducation.org to learn more.



Read more: bit.ly/4d7MTHd

Sarah Jacobs named Teacher of the Year

Centerville City Schools recognized Sarah Jacobs, a first-grade teacher at Primary Village North, as the 2025 Teacher of the Year.



PVN Principal Mindy Cline said Jacobs, who has been teaching in Centerville for the past 23 years, is one of the most dedicated professionals she has ever worked with.

"Every decision that Sarah makes is about kids and their families," Cline said. "She plans such exciting and engaging lessons. When I walk into her classroom, it's just fabulous to see the joy of student learning on all of the kids' faces."

Jacobs will represent Centerville as the district's finalist for the 2026 Ohio Teacher of the Year competition.



Watch video: bit.ly/42orPbR

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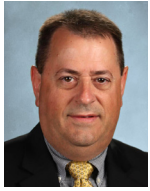


Centerville High School celebrates Class of 2025

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Reflecting and planning for the 2025–26 school year



Jon Wesley, superintendent of Centerville City Schools, shares his thoughts and plans.

Summer is a time to pause, reflect and prepare.

As we take a breath after a full and impactful 2024–25 school year, we celebrate the many achievements of our students—most notably our 692 Centerville High School graduates! These accomplishments, along with the progress we’ve made as a district, are possible thanks to the support of our remarkable community. Thank you.

At the start of last school year, we faced significant financial uncertainty following the failure of two consecutive levies. As a result, the district made difficult reductions in staff and programs, while stabilizing our operating budget became a top priority. Thanks to your overwhelming support last November, the successful passage of our operating levy brought renewed purpose. We are committed to using these funds wisely and extending their impact for as long as possible.

With the proposed change to the governor’s biennial budget, we continue to monitor state funding models. Any significant changes in these models or property tax collection could affect our five-year forecast and our ability to make the recent operating levy last six or more years. Transparent fiscal responsibility will remain at the forefront of our planning.

Strengthening community connections

Last fall, we launched a districtwide effort to connect face-to-face with the community. Through more than 55 events—ranging from community forums to our new **ELKS Connect: Black and Gold Conversations for a Stronger School Community**—residents engaged directly with our leadership team by asking questions and providing feedback.

We continued conversations in spring and we’re excited to bring back **ELKS Connect** this fall. These sessions help maintain transparency while listening to and supporting students and families. We will soon share our fall schedule.

We will also continue our strong partnership with **Centerville Safe**, an organization that supports school safety improvements and educational events. This collaboration has supported building-level safety improvements and launched educational series on critical safety topics.

This year, we’re teaming up again to support a Community Book Read. We invite parents, staff, and residents to join us in reading *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. This timely and important look at the challenges facing today’s youth is one we hope you’ll read. Details can be found on page 5 of this publication.



Aging facilities, modern needs

With our oldest building, Magsig Middle School, now 101 years old—and our newest, Primary Village South, already 18 years old—our schools are showing their age. Our buildings are more than just structures; they are the foundation for teaching, learning and community events. As we plan for the future, we’re exploring creative, sustainable ways to maintain and upgrade these spaces to meet the needs of today’s learners.

Welcoming new faces

We are in the midst of one of the most

significant staffing transitions in recent memory, primarily due to changes in the State Teachers’ Retirement System. More than 50 teachers are retiring, and this fall, we’ll welcome three new elementary principals. Recruitment efforts have reached across colleges and universities statewide, as we continue to hire, onboard and prepare new staff for a smooth start to the school year.

Building on our Strategic Plan

Looking ahead, our work will stay centered on our five focus areas:

Teaching and Learning – Supporting whole-child growth—academically, emotionally and intellectually—through safe and evidence-based practices.

Leading and Innovating – Encouraging innovation, leadership and risk-taking to create positive change across our school community.

Including and Diversifying – Making space for all voices in our diverse community and ensuring that inclusivity strengthens every part of our mission.

Communicating and Understanding – Building trust through transparency, measurable outcomes and shared learning from both success and challenge.

Resourcing and Supporting – Creating systems and structures that empower growth and sustain excellence.

The strength of Centerville City Schools lies in the unwavering support of the Centerville/Washington Township community. Your involvement helps ensure strong schools and bright futures.

We look forward to seeing you this fall at ELKS Connect events and throughout the school year. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

Go Elks,

Jon

Paving the way to smoother traffic flow



Chuck Cowgill, director of business operations, discusses the new road at Centerville High School.

Thanks to a strong partnership between Centerville City Schools and the City of Centerville, Centerville High School will have a new point of entry, improving the traffic flow for parents, students and the community. The extension of Dimco Way will serve as a second access point to the school. The project was made possible in part by the school district being named Community Partner of the Year—an honor that has helped align city and district priorities to better serve students and the larger community.

“This project is about more than just improving traffic—it’s about safety, efficiency and strengthening the connection between our schools and our city,” said Superintendent Jon Wesney. “Being recognized as Community Partner of the Year opened the door for even more collaboration, and this road extension is a direct result of that.”

Currently, the main access point to Centerville High School is from Franklin Street, which experiences significant congestion—especially during drop-off and pick-up hours, as well as rush hour and special events. The new road will help alleviate that pressure, offering families, staff and students a faster, safer and more convenient way in and out of campus.

The road extension will also change internal traffic patterns for the better. Right now, the amount of traffic within the CHS parking lot can cause backups during the morning and afternoon rush. With a new entry and exit point, the campus will benefit from a smoother flow of vehicles, reducing wait times and helping buses, parents and staff move through more efficiently.

The project will also have a major impact during large school events, such as Friday night football games, competitions and community gatherings. Under the current configuration, all incoming and outgoing traffic funnels through Franklin Street, which often leads to long delays before and after events. The new connection from Clyo Road will disperse traffic more evenly, making the experience easier and less frustrating for families.

In addition, the extension will support emergency access by providing an additional route to Centerville High School via Dimco Way for the Centerville police and the Washington Township Fire Department, which will enhance overall emergency response.

“This project will benefit everyone—from students and parents to teachers, first responders and residents across Centerville,” Wesney added. “This is just one of the ways we continue to empower, challenge and support our district.”

This road is expected to be completed by the start of the 2025-26 school year.



Centerville welcomes three new principals



French

At Primary Village North, Christina French will take over for Mindy Cline, who is retiring after 34 years in the district. French most recently served as director of K-6

curriculum and instruction for Lakota Local Schools from 2018 to 2023, and she was principal of Lakota’s Hopewell Elementary for six years prior to that. She has also served as a member of the Lakota Board of Education since 2024.



Szozda

Matt Szozda will be the new leader at John Hole Elementary, replacing Lisa Mays, who is retiring after serving as principal for the past 13 years. Since 2014,

Szozda has been an art teacher at Cline Elementary, where he has held several building leadership positions. He also taught art in three other district schools and was Ohio’s District 3 Teacher of the Year in 2020.



Montgomery

At Normandy Elementary, Drew Montgomery will be the new principal, taking over from Rebecca O’Neil, who is retiring after 23 years as principal.

Montgomery has served as the principal at Sardinia Elementary in the Eastern Local School District since 2022. Prior to that, he taught fourth and fifth grade science and math.

District adopts new K-5 ELA curriculum

Beginning this school year, our K–5 classrooms will be using Benchmark Advance, a research-based English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum.

This curriculum adoption is part of our district's response to Ohio's High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) law, which requires all districts to use state-reviewed, high-quality instructional materials aligned to the Science of Reading. Over 60 K–5 teachers participated in our curriculum adoption team throughout the past school year. These dedicated educators spent months reviewing programs, analyzing materials and piloting lessons in their classrooms. Their feedback and expertise played a vital role in selecting a curriculum that best meets the needs of our students. Benchmark Advance supports consistent, explicit teaching in the foundational skills of reading while helping students build knowledge across content areas like science and social studies.

We're excited about the opportunities this new curriculum brings and look forward to partnering with families to support each child's literacy journey.

Middle school schedule changes for 2025–26 school year

Centerville's three middle schools will see a schedule reconfiguration with the start of the 2025–26 school year.

"Over the past few years, it has become clear that we need a more flexible middle school schedule to accommodate student learning needs and meet new state requirements," said Adam Ciarlariello, director of secondary curriculum.

The new schedule addresses several needs, including the implementation of reading improvement plans and dyslexia intervention, the need for core content support or enrichment, and a state requirement to offer career exploration in middle school. Planning was guided by the district's strategic plan and *Portrait of an Elk*, a desire to build relationships in school and advisories, and an opportunity to provide common planning time for interdisciplinary teams of teachers.

"Fiscal responsibility has also been a driving factor in our planning," Ciarlariello said. "By looking at ways to reorganize our schedule, we're able to preserve what we value most in our middle school program while expanding services using the staff we already have."

Middle school students will continue to have an advisory period; grade-level families or pods; a related arts rotation; world language courses; opportunities to



take band, chorus or orchestra classes; and lunch with recess time.

Changes to the schedule will allow for longer class periods without extending the school day; daily reading and math support for students who qualify; full programming for accelerated students; daily band, chorus, and orchestra class periods for students who participate in those programs; and a new class focused on building the competencies outlined in the district's *Portrait of an Elk*—adaptability, communication, critical thinking, empathy, and tech literacy.

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 Learn more: bit.ly/3ES4gil



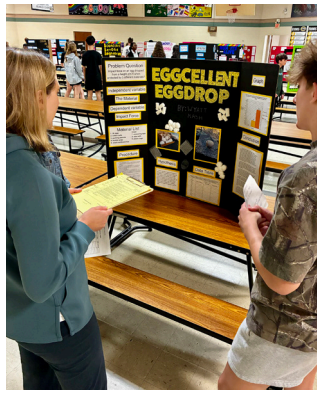
(left) Primary Village South first graders walked to Oak Creek South Park to learn about the wetlands with educators from the Centerville-Washington Park District. (middle) Fourth-grade students from all six 2-5 buildings participated in an Arbor Day celebration with the Centerville City Beautiful Commission and the Centerville-Washington Park District in April. (right) Primary Village North students searched for signs of spring during nature class, which is part of their integrated arts rotation.



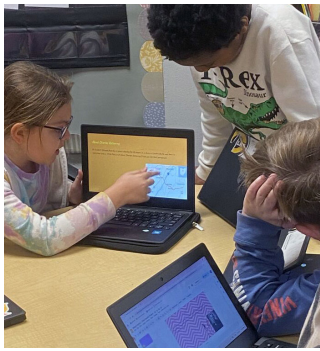
The nonprofit Just a Pair of Shoes, with support from the Centerville-Washington Foundation, donated 91 pairs of Nike tennis shoes to Cline Elementary students.



In May, parents and community members volunteered to share insights about their career fields with eighth-grade students at Magsig Middle School.



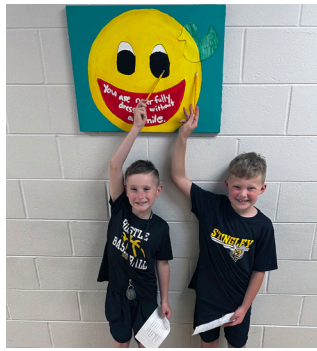
Eighth-grade students in Family C at Tower Heights Middle School showcased their final Science Day projects for community judges and fellow students in April.



Fourth graders at Weller Elementary highlighted the impact Ohio inventors have had on the world—especially during the Industrial Revolution and in the transportation field.



Driscoll Elementary students spread joy in the community by creating valentines and floral arrangements for residents of Bethany Village.



Hope Week at Stingley Elementary was supported by the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

LEADING & INNOVATING

Centerville Preschool earns Gold rating

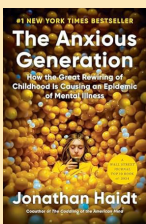
Centerville Preschool, which offers programs at both Primary Village North and Primary Village South, was awarded the highest rating in Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* accreditation process.

Centerville Preschool is licensed by the Ohio Department of Children & Youth and serves about 250 children ages 3 to 5, including children with special needs and peer models. The program is designed to develop social skills as well as kindergarten readiness.



A student in Amy O'Grady's preschool class points out an animal during a read-aloud activity.

School district, area organizations team up for community read



For the past three years, Centerville Schools has partnered with the nonprofit Centerville Safe to offer free presentations on a variety of safety-related topics.

In 2025—26, the district will continue to build on those conversations by participating in a community read of *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by Jonathan Haidt. In addition to Centerville Safe, partners include the Centerville Noon Optimist Club, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Washington-Centerville Public Library, Washington Township RecPlex and others.

"We look forward to partnering with organizations and individuals across Centerville and Washington Township to

discuss the childhood and adolescent mental health crisis," said Emily Denlinger, president of Centerville Safe. "We feel that engaging the entire community in supporting children, parents, caregivers and educators as we navigate the realities of a technology-heavy world is important."

Community organizations are invited to form their own book clubs, and Centerville Safe will provide a study guide to use during book club discussions.

A community-wide event is planned for Feb. 21, 2026, to discuss ways the community can respond to the children's mental health crisis. Book club participation is not required to attend the event.

For more information on how to create or join a book club, please contact centervillesafe@gmail.com.

Centerville City Schools leans into YouScience for career readiness



Adam Ciarlariello, director of secondary curriculum and instruction, discusses student career and readiness instruction.

Centerville City Schools (CCS) is dedicated to creating a collaborative learning environment that meets the needs of every learner, fosters personal growth, and prepares students to become responsible, community-minded members of society. In support of this vision, CCS is expanding the use of an innovative tool designed to help students develop plans for their post-graduation goals.

While this work was already underway, its importance was further emphasized when the Ohio Department of Education expanded into the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. The new College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness component — new to the Ohio State Report Card — evaluates how well the graduating class is equipped to pursue postsecondary education, enter the workforce or join the military.

To assist students, CCS is leaning into YouScience, an online assessment tool that measures both aptitudes and interests, reflecting career fields students find appealing. This tool allows students to explore a wide range of careers by matching their unique profiles with suitable options where they are most likely to be successful and enjoy what they are doing. YouScience also expands career exploration by providing detailed insights into specific roles, such as daily responsibilities, salary expectations and skill requirements.



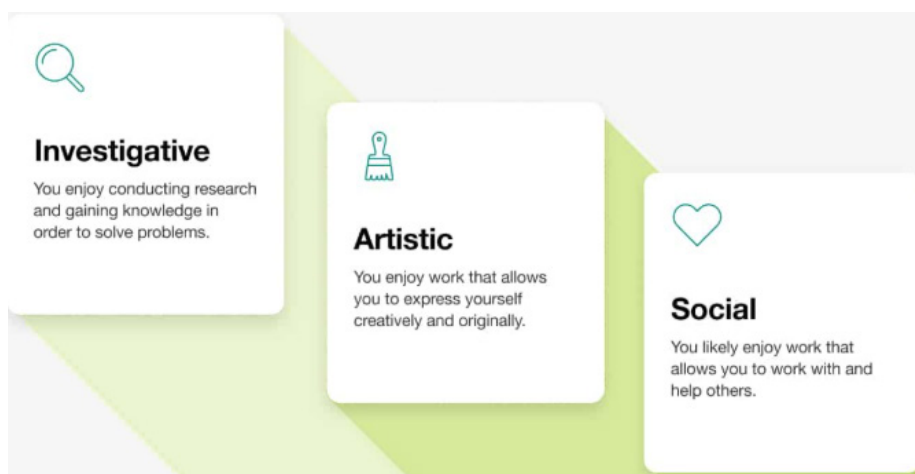
YouScience isn't new to CCS, with nearly 1,900 juniors and seniors completing the assessment last year. Adam Ciarlariello, the director of secondary curriculum and instruction, hopes to expand its use at the high school and, starting next year, offer a streamlined version to seventh and eighth graders. Ciarlariello shared, "Research shows that by age 14, most students have an idea of what type of work they enjoy, but many high school students are unaware of the careers that fit their natural talents. It is well documented that students can typically only name careers their parents have or careers with good marketing campaigns—featuring vehicles, uniforms or television shows. YouScience helps broaden their horizons by connecting students with opportunities aligned with aptitudes and interests they might not have previously considered." Once completed, student results are reviewed with advisors, counselors and during parent-teacher conferences. This approach helps identify courses or work-

based learning opportunities that would best suit the student for post-graduation success.

At the district level, CCS uses YouScience results to guide curriculum development, ensuring programs align with student needs, interests and potential. These insights highlighted opportunities to expand work-based learning options beginning in the upcoming school year. Tom Henderson, the district's work-based learning coordinator, will lead the use of YouScience data to connect students with hands-on experiences across a range of industries—including automotive, manufacturing, culinary arts, hospitality, health services and more—through partnerships with local employers.

Ciarlariello highlights the importance of this initiative: "Our goal is to increase college, career, workforce and military readiness for every student. There is a path for everyone, and once it's identified, we can guide students through high school with a targeted approach that enhances their chances of success after graduation. We are grateful that our partnership with Montgomery County Workforce Development provides this to our students at no cost to the district."

By integrating tools like YouScience into the educational experience, Centerville City Schools is equipping students with the knowledge and guidance needed to build fulfilling futures—helping both students and the community thrive.





Celebrating achievements

692

members of the
135th graduating
class

Summa cum laude
4.5 GPA & above

75

Magna cum laude
4.0 - 4.499 GPA

194

Cum laude
3.0 - 3.999 GPA

139

Honors Diplomas awarded

289

194

National Honor Society
members

8

National Merit
Semifinalists

10

National Merit
Commended
Scholars

233

Principal's Award
of Excellence

23

Principal's Award
of Achievement

11

Enlistments in the
U.S. Military



Scholar Athlete awards

175

*"The future belongs to those
who aren't afraid to fail."*



Watch video: Visit <http://bit.ly/3HK89Y9> to watch the full ceremony



Centerville City Schools
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Jon T. Wesney, Superintendent

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*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER

A school newsletter for residents of Centerville-Washington Township



Centerville High School inducted 159 juniors and seniors into the National Honor Society on Feb. 11. With the 2025 inductees, there are now 330 juniors and seniors in the CHS National Honor Society, which recognizes students who excel in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Mark your calendar

- Aug. 13** First day of school for K-12 students
- Aug. 20** First day of school for PreK students
- Aug. 25** Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 1** No school, Labor Day
- Sept. 12** No school, teacher in-service
- Sept. 15** Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 10** End of first quarter
- Oct. 13** No school, teacher in-service
- Oct. 23-24** No school, parent-teacher conferences on Oct. 22-23 at all levels
- Oct. 27** Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 14** No school, teacher in-service
- Nov. 26-28** No school, Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 24** Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 15** Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.



Stay up to date with your local schools: Get district news delivered to your inbox each week! Visit bit.ly/3qtaLAO or scan this code to sign up.