

CARDINAL COMMUNIQUE

**JANUARY
2026**



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*Happy New Year
Cardinal Community!*



Superintendent's Message

Mr. Joseph Knoll

As we begin 2026, I want to reflect on the tremendous accomplishments of the first half of the school year. There are countless reasons to be proud to be a Cardinal, and I remain grateful for the support, spirit, and shared commitment to excellence that define Canfield. Every day, our students, staff, families, and community partners bring The Cardinal Way — Pride, Purpose, Passion, and Perseverance — to life.

This fall, we continued our strong tradition of honoring those who serve our country and our community. We recognized first responders and military members during halftime at a home football game, and our PTA-sponsored Community Night took place the same evening. The large turnout for both events underscored the importance of partnership in education and reflected the very best of who we are.

Academically, we have much to celebrate. Fifty-three Canfield High School graduates and current students earned AP Scholar Awards for their outstanding performance on AP exams in 2024–2025. On the state report card, CH Campbell, Hilltop, and CVMS each earned 5 stars, while the district and CHS earned 4.5 stars overall. This is a remarkable testament to the dedication of our educators and the hard work of our students.

Our district's overall star rating shifted due to the state's new College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness component. This new measure requires students to complete one of 11 indicators, such as earning an honors diploma, meeting AP/ACT benchmarks, completing an apprenticeship, entering the workforce, or joining the military. Although 85.1% of the Class of 2025 enrolled in college, college enrollment is not included as one of the indicators. Canfield performed very well on the components tied to college readiness, and we remain committed to expanding opportunities in workforce and apprenticeship pathways. Even with this change, the data affirms that Canfield continues to be one of the region's and state's highest-performing districts.

In personnel news, the Board of Education named Benjamin Marko as the district's next Treasurer, succeeding longtime Treasurer Pattie Prince, whose nearly four decades of dedicated service are deeply appreciated. We extend our best wishes to Miss Prince in her next endeavors.

Our students continue to demonstrate the importance of service. This year, the CVMS Food Drive raised a record-breaking 6,700 pounds of food, an incredible example of kindness and leadership. We also celebrated another successful tradition with the 36th Annual CHS Craft Show, which drew large crowds and showcased the hard work of our junior and senior class officers.

Our community partnerships remain central to student success. Career Days, team feeds, the Canfield Rotary's Students of the Month recognition, and so much more, reflect the heart of Canfield and our shared investment in every child.

We also celebrate a strong season of athletic excellence. The Lady Cardinal Golf Team made up of Alex Conley, Natalie Sawicki, Aubree Philibin, Laney Kleeh, and Lorin Sam, placed 10th in the state, and we congratulate state cross country qualifiers Alex Taranto and Alex Hammar. Lexie Toporcer and Drew Snyder were named to the All-State soccer team. Read about all of our accolades in the sports section of this issue.

As we move into the second half of the school year, thank you for your continued partnership and your commitment to The Cardinal Way. Together, we will carry forward the Pride, Purpose, Passion, and Perseverance that make Canfield such an exceptional place to live, learn, and lead.

With Cardinal Pride,
Superintendent Joe Knoll



Curriculum Update

Mr. John Vitto, Assistant Superintendent

Canfield Local School District continues to make exciting progress in student learning across all grade levels. This year, our literacy initiatives, grounded in the science of reading, are helping students grow as confident, capable readers and writers. Over the past three years, we have aligned instruction, materials, and professional learning so that all students receive clear and consistent foundational skills instruction. Teachers report that this common approach has strengthened their practice and brought greater coherence to literacy instruction across grades and buildings. The results are evident in our student data, with gains in decoding, fluency, and reading confidence. Our outstanding teachers continue to motivate students to be lifelong readers and writers, and we remain committed to ensuring every student experiences high-quality literacy instruction.

Building on this strong foundation, our students are also excelling in mathematics. Over 300 students in grades 4–8 are actively engaged in First in Math, a game-based online program that strengthens skills across a wide range of concepts. Statewide, our teams have earned impressive rankings: 4th Grade CH – 9th in Ohio; 4th Grade HT – 11th; 5th Grade MS – 19th; and 6th–8th Grade MS – 32nd. Additionally, 11 students are ranked among the top 100 in the state, highlighting both their dedication and the quality instruction they receive.

Hilltop Elementary students are preparing for a rare, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to speak live with astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Scheduled for February 9–12, this event will allow several students to ask astronauts questions live, while the entire community can watch via livestream. Under the guidance of STEM teacher Stephanie

Palumbo and second-grade teacher Bethany Lopatta, students are engaging in hands-on lessons in space science, engineering, coding, and radio communication, supported by the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association. This extraordinary experience highlights Hilltop's commitment to real-world learning that sparks creativity, problem-solving, and a lifelong love of STEM.

High school STEM students have also been immersed in engaging, real-world experiences. Introduction to Aerospace students welcomed guest speakers, including a lifeflight nurse, a jet pilot, and the captain of the Goodyear Blimp. Forensic Science, CCP Biology, and Medical Occupations students extracted DNA and conducted fingerprint analyses using authentic forensic lab equipment. Chemical Demonstrations and AP Chemistry classes traveled to Pittsburgh for the 38th Annual Faraday Lecture, participating in a professional chemistry presentation similar to the demonstrations they share with younger students. Zoology students visited the Greater Cleveland Aquarium to see firsthand the animals they've studied in class, while Independent Research students moved from experimentation to product development—creating innovations like medicine-infused athletic tape and edible popsicle sticks.

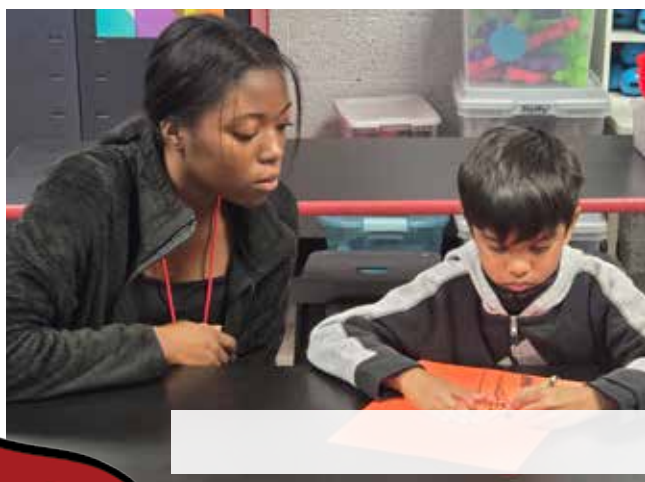
Our mentorship programs continue to grow as well, with 30 teachers supporting over 150

students this semester, including a new Lexia mentoring initiative for CHC Kindergarten students. Looking ahead, we are excited for our Spring Spectacular Fun Night on April 21 at Canfield High School, welcoming all students K–8 to celebrate learning, creativity, and community.

In addition, Canfield Local has been awarded a \$45,000 grant to support professional learning in Artificial Intelligence for Education through Nextwave Consulting. This program will equip staff with AI tools to streamline planning, assessments, and daily workflow, offering six contact hours, a state-recognized credential, and ongoing resources such as webinars, podcasts, and reference materials. Staff training will begin with administrators and our technology integration team, followed by all certified staff, helping us integrate innovative practices that benefit students across the district.

We are also partnering with Valley STEM and MCCTC on a new grant opportunity to strengthen middle school Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Although still in the planning phase, grant funds may support career exploration activities, field trips, updated curriculum, classroom equipment such as robotics kits or 3D printers, and teacher training in STEM and CTE. This partnership will continue to provide engaging, future-focused learning experiences that prepare students for high school pathways and beyond.

Canfield Local School District is proud of the incredible learning opportunities our students are experiencing this year. From literacy gains to space science, STEM innovation, and career exploration, our students are growing as curious, capable, and creative learners. Together, we continue to foster a community where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.



CHS students enjoy mentoring our elementary students.



Special Services Update

Mrs. Shannon Miller, Director of Special Services

The Special Services Department continues to operate with a Student-First mindset in determining services, programs, and approaches that will meet students' needs. What does a Student-First mindset look like in the Canfield Local School District?

At the elementary level, a Student-First mindset centers around helping students to develop foundational skills in multiple domains of functioning related to their academic success. Children are developing at a fast pace in so many varied domains at this stage of development. Addressing the whole child in a collaborative team-focused effort is important. The Special Services Department actively collaborates with the Curriculum Department to address students' intervention needs and their needs for specially designed supports and services. The Department works closely with the building administration, the District Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA), the school counselors, and the Student Support Teams (SSTs) in order to address needs related to behavioral, academic, adaptive, and social-emotional functioning. Recently, the SST teams collaborated with the Special Services Department to provide staff with professional development sessions to further support the solid framework of intervention.

At the middle and high school levels, a Student-First mindset focuses on helping students further develop, generalize, and apply their foundational academic skills to access and master academic content. The district provides the highest possible level of access to the general education curriculum for every student. Students at this stage continue to develop their behavioral, social-emotional,

adaptive, and executive functioning skills to meet increasing expectations and demands for independence and skill application at higher levels. Inclusive practices are essential for giving students the greatest possible access to the general education curriculum and environment. The Canfield Local School District has strong inclusive practices that promote a sense of belonging and success. Canfield's percentage of students with disabilities included in the general education setting for 80% or more of their school day far exceeds the state average. When students need additional support to address their unique instructional needs, they are provided with access to effective, research-based, and individualized curricula in literacy and math to enhance their skills and achieve higher levels of performance and functioning.

When students reach the age of 14, the focus on preparing them for post-secondary education, vocational opportunities, and independent living strengthens. Students engage in various activities related to their transition plans in order to identify careers that would provide them the opportunity to utilize and showcase their strengths and skills. Students recently participated in Career Day, as pictured below, where they learned about various careers. Canfield High School offers strong vocational programming and vocational skill development opportunities, where students have the experience of participating in jobs at work sites, building skills that will lead to independent functioning post graduation. This year, students are working at various sites, including Big Reach and Sparkle Market, as pictured below.

Students and staff participated in the annual

Champions Day celebration in September. The Canfield Local Schools welcomed more than 200 students with special abilities from multiple schools/programs. The following Districts/Schools were present this year to take part in the celebration: Canfield, Austintown, Poland, South Range, Potential Development, ESC Work Program, Struthers, Jackson Milton, Boardman, Leonard Kirtz, Springfield, Campbell, Beaver Local, Columbiana, Rich Center, and Sebring. Students ran through the tunnel while their names were announced in celebration. Athletic stations included football, soccer, cheer, tennis, band, golf, and volleyball. The joy and excitement of the day were captured in pictures shared below.

The Canfield Local School District was recently awarded the highest special education rating possible by the Department of Education and Workforce. The rating reflects various points of measurement, including compliance and results indicators, such as graduation rates. The percentage of Canfield students graduating by meeting the requirements for a regular High School diploma was measured to be 89.47 percent, which far exceeds the State average.

The staff employed in the Special Services Department in Canfield are the heart and the soul of the Department. Canfield students experience a high level of success due to the intervention specialists, related services providers, aides, and behavioral support personnel who work with the students on a daily basis to provide research-based instruction and support tailored to their needs. Their dedication in partnership with the families, the administration, and the instructional coaches is to be celebrated.



Students enjoy activities and fellowship during Champions Day.



Hilltop students apply their math skills in sorting, counting and experimenting with pennies as part of a celebration of the retirement of the penny



Students visit the Canfield library to get library cards, check out books and learn about the moon



Champions Day Competitors



Students develop employability skills at various worksites



Students engage in cooking lessons at C.H. Campbell Elementary to further increase independence through strengthening daily living skills.



Students enjoy learning about various careers during Career Day.



Treasurer's Update

Miss Patricia Prince, Treasurer

The Canfield Local School District has continued to maintain a high level of service to our students, parents and community as indicated by three of our schools receiving a five-star rating on the most recent 2024-25 report card with the fourth following close behind with a 4.5 star rating, quite a prestigious designation for all schools in the district. A five star rating indicates the school significantly exceeds state standards and is the highest rating achievable. This has been accomplished while maintaining an average cost per pupil of \$11,727, which is below the state average of \$12,759. A large percentage of these expenses (71.1%) is spent directly on classroom instruction. In our comparison group of like school districts, only two have higher performance indexes but both of these districts have costs per pupil that exceed Canfield's – one being significantly higher and actually exceeding the state average.

The Board of Education and administration closely monitor its revenue and expenditures in accordance with its financial forecast and work diligently to make sure tax dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. As the district begins to navigate deficit spending and property tax reform, a healthy carryover general fund balance will help to sustain the district.

Due to the current condition of our aging facilities, the District has attempted to seek additional support from the community to construct a new middle school so that we can continue to strive toward reaching the District's Vision - *To create an educational environment that nurtures the whole child, inspiring each student to reach their highest potential.* While three attempts have failed, the board has pledged to survey and educate the community to try to find a plan that will be acceptable to the majority of voters in the community.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Board of Education and the entire Canfield community for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as Treasurer for more than 39 years. It has been an honor to support a district so committed to its students, staff, and future. As I transition into retirement, I do so with full confidence in my successor, Ben Marko, whose dedication and professionalism will undoubtedly serve Canfield Local Schools well. Thank you for the trust, support, and partnership that have made my time here truly meaningful.



Food Services Update

Ms. Noelle Roth, Director of Food Services

The Canfield School District Food and Nutrition Services department is self-operated and participates in the National School Lunch Program. During the 2024-25 school year, we served 195,338 nutritious, well-balanced meals to our K-12 students. The cafeteria staff works hard to provide appealing meals along with plenty of fruit and vegetable choices. Students also have a variety of main entrées and alternates to choose from each day. We love having your child buy their lunch from our cafeteria-our success comes from your support! Please reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. Contact information is: Noelle Roth, nroth@canfieldschools.net or 330-533-5507 ext 72411.

Our lunch program operates on a debit system. We kindly ask that you ensure your child's account maintains a positive balance. Cash or checks are accepted in the school, and PaySchools handles online deposits and credit card payments. Instructions are listed on how to pay for your child's lunches.

ADDING FUNDS TO A LUNCH ACCOUNT

- **Cash or check:** Your child may pay with cash or check at the time of purchase. Please make sure your payment is in an envelope and marked with your child's full name and grade. Checks should be made payable to: Canfield Schools Cafeteria. Checks can be sent to school, dropped off in the office, or sent via mail to Canfield Cafeterias, Attn. Noelle Roth, 100 Cardinal Dr., Canfield, OH 44406.
- **Online deposits:** For easy online deposits, parents/guardians are



CHS Nutrition Staff



CVMS Nutrition Staff

encouraged to set up an account at www.payschoolscentral.com. PaySchools Central is quick and easy to use. Add your child to the system by using their student ID number (this is different from their PIN). The system will take you through a step-by-step registration process. Once your account is created, you will find a variety of features that will make the management of your account easier. For further questions regarding setup, visit the district website for tutorials or contact PaySchools Central at 1-877-393-6628.

FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PROCESS

Families receiving SNAP benefits and foster children categorically qualify for free lunches. Families with Medicaid benefits may qualify through the State of Ohio through the Direct Certification process. As a reminder, applications can be filled out at any time during the school year.

Applications are available in Final Forms, on the district website to download and print, at each of the school offices, or you can request one to be sent to your home. Completed applications need to be returned to your child's school or mailed to Canfield High School, Attn. Noelle Roth, 100 Cardinal Dr., Canfield, OH 44406. Only one application per household is needed.





Transportation Update

Ms. Linda Cervello, Transportation Supervisor

The Canfield Transportation Department is off to a strong start this year! The 2025–2026 school year began with our annual Kindergarten Safety Day, where transportation staff welcomed our “New Little Cardinals” and introduced them to essential bus safety procedures and rules. Students had the chance to meet their drivers, explore the buses, and even take a practice ride to help them feel comfortable and confident.

In September, all drivers completed the state-mandated Ohio bus evacuation drills. These important exercises ensure students know how to safely and quickly exit a bus in the event of an emergency.

Our annual Safety Day took place in October in coordination with statewide School Bus Safety Week. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Canfield Police Department, the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol for partnering with us to “Safely Transport Our Cardinals.”

During the event, school administrators and officers rode along on routes, patrolled neighborhoods, and monitored traffic around our buses while identifying motorists who failed to follow safety laws.

We remind everyone to watch for school buses during morning and afternoon routes and

to always obey flashing warning lights. Our buses are equipped with interior and exterior cameras, and we continue to collaborate with local law enforcement year-round to “Keep Our Cardinals Safe.”

The Transportation Department is continually working to keep our fleet of vehicles safe and operational. The average age of our bus fleet is 2009. Each of our buses has a safety inspection a minimum of 3 times each school year. Our buses travel 1,229 miles/day of public transportation, 297 miles/day of non-public transportation, and 228 miles/day for special education purposes for a total of 1,754 miles/day or 315,720 miles/year.

Add to this the 42,613 miles annually for non-educational field trips, and our fleet travels 358,333 miles/year. All fleet repairs are completed in-house, with the exception of warranty/recalls and alignments. All of this is

completed with 2 full-time mechanics and 1 full-time supervisor. This year, we were able to replace one of our transportation vans.

In keeping with our focus on safety, we provide our drivers with professional development throughout the year, including maneuvering courses, updates on new rules and regulations, updates on state and federal laws, and team-building experiences. The Transportation Department has two On-Board Instructors who assist in driver training, re-certify our current bus drivers and van drivers, certify new substitute bus drivers and new van drivers, and provide driver training as needed.

In closing, we would like to wish you and your families a happy and safe new year. We appreciate your continued support of the Transportation Department and look forward to continuing to “Safely Carry the Cardinals.”

We are currently seeking substitute bus drivers and encourage stay-at-home parents or anyone looking to become more involved in our community to apply online through the district website. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact **Linda Cervello at 330-533-3832**.

The district covers all training costs and provides on-site trainers. Driving a school bus is a rewarding way to support our students, make a meaningful impact, and create lasting memories. We offer competitive wages and opportunities for full-time employment with benefits.



Bus Safety Art Contest Winners



Chris, Christy & Barb



Our wonderful Law Enforcement on Bus Safety Day



Linda, Mr. Knoll & Mr. Carl on Bus Safety Day



Mr. Knoll & Mr. Carl on the #49



Evacuation Drill



Mr. Dunn, Miss Donna, Mr. Carl & Miss Linda
Steelers-Browns Day



Plowing the lots on the first snow day of the season



First day of school – The Cardinal Way



Celebrating the season



Canfield High School Highlights

Dr. Mark Potts, Principal and Mr. Mason Seachrist, Assistant Principal

As we reach the midway point of the school year, we are proud to share just a few highlights that reflect the strong work happening each day at Canfield High School. CHS continues to be the top-rated high school academically in Mahoning County and remains among the top-performing schools across the state. This fall, we expanded our already robust academic offerings by adding 13 new courses, bringing our total to more than 150 options. Our students now have access to 18 Advanced Placement classes, 11 College Credit Plus courses in partnership with Kent State University and Youngstown State University, and a wide range of Honors opportunities - ensuring every student is challenged and supported.

Our extracurricular and athletic accomplishments have been equally impressive. This fall, our sports teams excelled across the board: Football finished 10-2, Boys Soccer 16-3, Girls Soccer 12-7, Volleyball 20-4, Boys Golf 9-0 in dual meets, Girls Golf 6-0 with a 10th-place finish at the Division I state tournament, and Girls Tennis 13-2. These successes reflect not only the dedication of our student-athletes but

also the support of our coaches, families, and community. We are also proud that seven seniors have already committed to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level, with more expected in the months ahead.

Beyond athletics, CHS continues to shine in the arts and academic competition. Our Speech and Debate team remains one of the most successful programs in Ohio. Our Band, Choir, and Performing Arts groups deliver outstanding performances year after year. Combined with our clubs, dances, concerts, and student-led activities, these opportunities help create a vibrant and well-rounded high school experience.

All of this reflects what we proudly call the Cardinal Way - a commitment to excellence in the classroom, in competition, and in character. Thank you for your continued support of Canfield High School and the remarkable young people we serve. Together, we look forward to an even stronger second half of the year.



Speech and Debate Team



Student-made Biology cell desserts



Students celebrate Start With Hello Week



D1 Signing Day



Announcement team got CHS ready for Halloween



Taking the field on Friday night



Zoinks! Halloween brings out CHS creativity



Mrs. Mullins and Mrs. Larson



CHS Spirit in the Student Section



2025 Homecoming Court



Featured Twirler Jaelyn Foerster



Showing skills at the pep rally



Cheer and Football teaming up at Fall Pep Rally



Homecoming Queen Mia Dingman and escort Nick Weber



PBIS First Class Cardinals for October



Craft Show leaders



CHS Choir Performance



Band bringing the energy on the road





Canfield Village Middle School Highlights

Mr. Judd Rubin, Principal and Mr. Joseph Maroni, Assistant Principal

It is hard to believe the school year is already half over. It has been a phenomenal year thus far at CVMS. We started the year off with exciting news that we were awarded a 5-star rating by the state of Ohio. This is the highest recognition a school can receive. This accolade is a total team effort comprised of our amazing staff and students, along with considerable support from our parents and community.

Our fall athletic season was full of winning records and successes.

CVMS cheerleading teams have won several competitions during the season as well.

Spirit week and other student council initiatives have been bolstered by our entire building. The annual food drive with the Second Harvest Food Bank garnered the attention of news outlets, as we have more than surpassed the 3,200 pounds of food collected last year with over 6,000 pounds of food!

Ellie, our therapy dog, continues to bring smiles to both children and adults in the building. CVMS is truly a special place to be, and I look forward to a remarkable start to 2026!



In September, CVMS collaborated with our SROs to enlighten students on phone and internet safety. The assembly helped provide a safer environment for all.



Our second annual fall PBIS event, student vs. staff volleyball game, against the girls volleyball teams was played in a packed gymnasium with our 7th and 8th student body cheering on both sides.



Second Harvest Food Bank would like to sincerely thank our students and the community for their generosity in donating food for families in the Mahoning Valley.



New York Times Best Selling Author, John Schu, made his presence known to our seventh and eighth graders as he showered them with his love and passion for books and a good story.



Our annual Veterans' Day is always one of the most special events of the year at CVMS. It is student-led and honors our community veterans. Thank you to Mr. Cusenbender, who was our special guest speaker for the assembly.



Congratulations to our 8th-grade girls' volleyball team for winning the AAC Championship! Kudos to the 7th-grade team, who finished runners-up.



Halloween was another huge success at the middle school with both students and staff participating. Each student enjoyed a donut provided by the PTA.



CVMS is deemed a Purple Star School for its commitment to honoring military families. We are proud to honor all of our Veterans.



A Kindness Club was created to spread joy, happiness, and friendships to all CVMS students and staff.



These "Classy Cards" earned special prizes and treats for showing respectful, safe, and responsible behavior at CVMS. Thank you to our PTA Moms who help keep our cart 'rolling' smoothly every other Thursday!



Our fall sports recognition assembly recognized athletes participating in football, cross country, volleyball, and cheerleading. Thanks to the band for bringing lots of energy. Way to go, Cards!



C.H. Campbell Elementary Highlights

Mr. Travis Lavery, Principal

As we reach the midway point of our school year, I am filled with pride for all we have accomplished together. C. H. Campbell Elementary has been keeping our students busy with engaging learning opportunities and fun-filled events. October brought a lot of fun activities to our students. During Fire Safety Day, our local firefighters taught students essential safety practices, gave tours of their equipment, and helped children understand how to stay calm and prepared in an emergency. Career Day sparked curiosity and excitement as volunteers from various professions shared their journeys and answered students' questions. Our camping-themed Literacy Night was a wonderful celebration of reading, with families exploring books, participating in engaging activities, and strengthening the partnership between families and the school. Finally, the Halloween Parade and classroom parties allowed students to showcase their creativity, cheer for their friends, and enjoy a joyful afternoon of school spirit.

In November and December, students continued learning beyond the classroom. The Canfield community gathered alongside our school for a moving Veterans' Day Assembly to honor the brave men and women who have served our country. Our students' rendition of *I'm Proud to Be an American* has garnered over 300,000 views on Facebook. The C. H. Campbell students showed tremendous respect and appreciation with the event reminding us of the importance of gratitude and civic responsibility. These enriching events, combined with the everyday learning happening in each classroom, have made the first half of our school year truly exceptional. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I look forward to all the growth and joy the second half of the year will bring!



Our high school mentors work with our students every week as a part of their College Credit + teacher education course.



The second-grade students paid tribute to veterans in attendance during our annual Veteran's Day assembly under the direction of Mr. Fay.



The C. H. Campbell staff was ready to welcome students into a new school year!



Kindergarten students enjoying the playground during recess.



Students in Mrs. Blythe's second-grade classroom making a poster for Veteran's Day.



Kindergarten students in Mrs. Bloomster's classroom enjoying a warm fall day outside.



C. H. Campbell teacher, Mrs. Cole, pictured here reading to students in a tent during our camping-themed Literacy Night.



S.T.E.M. teacher, Patti Hockensmith, making a little magic using science to start off our Halloween festivities.



Enzo Spano having fun during our Literacy Night where parents and students came together to help learn about and support literacy in Canfield.



Canfield native and author, Joan Reardon, spoke with our students about the process of publishing a book during a school assembly.



Cardinal Heroes are selected each week to highlight our students who make great choices and exemplify the Cardinal Way.



Fourth-grade students showing appreciation for our new School Resource Officer, Stacy Karis.



Third grade students performed holiday songs at The Lighting of the Green under the direction of our music teacher, Mr. Fay.



Hilltop Elementary Highlights

Mr. Michael Flood, Principal

As we close the first half of the school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate all that we've accomplished together. From the dedication of our teachers and staff, to the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of our families, Hilltop continues to thrive as a community built on care, learning, and growth.

This semester has been filled with achievements both big and small — academic milestones, creative projects, athletic successes, and countless acts of kindness that remind us what makes Hilltop so

special. I am proud of the resilience and teamwork that shine through in every classroom, hallway, and event.

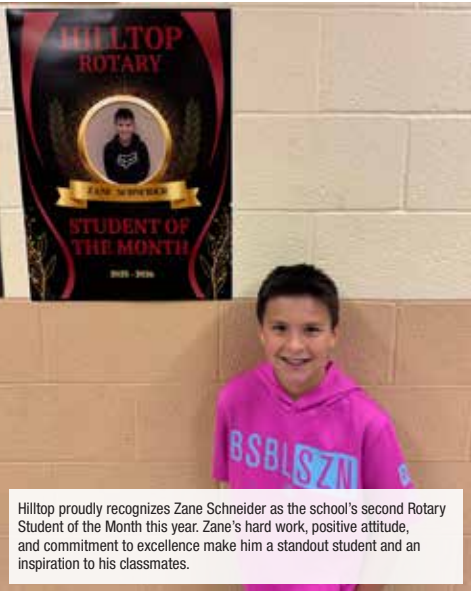
As we look ahead, I wish each of you a joyful and fulfilling 2026. May the new year bring continued success, meaningful connections, and opportunities to learn and grow together. Thank you for being an essential part of our Hilltop family.



Mr. Ware and Mr. Flood proudly presented Aubreanna Johnson with her leadership chair, recognizing her exceptional character and contributions. Now a fourth grader, Aubreanna continues to shine as a remarkable role model for all students at Hilltop.



Halloween at Hilltop was filled with excitement and creativity as students celebrated in festive style. Mrs. Amodio's class joined in the fun, showcasing costumes and enjoying the spirit of the season together.



Hilltop proudly recognizes Zane Schneider as the school's second Rotary Student of the Month this year. Zane's hard work, positive attitude, and commitment to excellence make him a standout student and an inspiration to his classmates.



On Election Day this year, Hilltop's kindergarten students held their very own "cookie election," casting votes to decide between chocolate chip and Oreo. The fun activity gave our youngest learners a hands-on way to experience the excitement of voting while enjoying a sweet classroom tradition.



Congratulations to Sadie Zavadi, Hilltop's very first Rotary Student of the Month for this school year! Sadie's kindness, leadership, and dedication to learning make her a shining example for her peers. We're proud to celebrate her accomplishments and the positive impact she brings to our school community.



Mrs. Patoray beams with pride as she stands between her daughters, Adrian and Winnie, all three wearing matching dresses that beautifully reflect their bond and togetherness. Their coordinated look radiates warmth, joy, and a sense of shared spirit.



Hilltop's fourth graders partnered with kindergarten students for special lessons, creating a wonderful opportunity for mentorship and learning. In this picture, kindergartener Amelia Hanolt works alongside fourth grader Madison Greenawalt, showcasing the joy of collaboration and the strong sense of community at Hilltop.



Champion Day in Canfield was a celebration of strength, spirit, and community—and DJ Jones embodied it all. With determination and energy, DJ powered through the football sled challenge, showing what it means to rise to the occasion and represent Hilltop with pride.



Hilltop's fourth graders had an unforgettable time at the Cleveland Cavs experience, soaking in the excitement of the game. The highlight came when they had the special opportunity to high-five the players as they entered the tunnel, creating memories they'll cherish for years to come.



Hilltop proudly launched its very first book study this school year, bringing students together to share ideas and grow as readers. This milestone marks an exciting step in fostering collaboration, curiosity, and a deeper love of learning across the school community.



Our Canfield Local Schools police officer proudly stands with his son, Steven Garstka, on Steven's first day at Hilltop Elementary. Steven is now officially a kindergartener, ready to begin his exciting school journey.



Officer Karis generously took time out of her day to join Hilltop's Vehicle Career Day, sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with students. Her participation made the event even more engaging and gave students a firsthand look at exciting career opportunities.



Mr. Ware continues to make a difference in the lives of Hilltop students by doing what he does best—building connections. Each day at lunch, he welcomes students to join him at his table, creating a warm and inclusive space that fosters friendship and belonging.





Athletic Update

Mr. Robert Beam, Athletic Director



As we officially close out another exciting fall sports season, we want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and spirit shown by all of our student-athletes. This season has been one of growth, teamwork, and countless memorable moments both on and off the field. This fall, our athletes demonstrated true resilience and sportsmanship. Coaches and volunteers contributed countless hours to training, mentoring, and supporting our teams, and our families and fans filled the stands with pride and enthusiasm at every event. Your commitment and spirit are what make our program strong year after year. Congratulations to all on a fantastic fall season!

Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Varsity Football
Overall Record:
10-2
AAC Record:
N/A
Accomplishments:
Regional Semi-Finalists
8th time in School History with 10 wins
4th Time in School History to host 2 Home playoff Games
9-1 vs Playoff Teams
Finished as the #1 seed in Region 9 for Div.III
Joe Ignazio- All Inland District Northeast Coach of the Year, OHSFCA Region 8 Coach of the Year, Vindicator Mahoning County Coach of the Year
Accomplishments:
Enzo Cocca- Senior - Team Captain
1st Team All Mahoning County- QB
1st Team All AAC-QB
1st Team All Northeast Inland District-QB
2nd Team All State-QB
Landon Shina- Senior- Team Captain
1st Team All Mahoning County- DL
1st Team All AAC-DL
1st Team All Inland District-DL
2nd Team All State-DL
WKBN Player of the Game- Week 3 vs Mooney
WYTV Student Athlete of the Week
Joey Pannunzio- Junior
1st Team All Mahoning County- DB
1st Team ALL AAC-DB
1st Team All Inland District Northeast-DB
WKBN Player of the Game Week 6 vs Hickory
All State Honorable Mention-DB
Luke Goodrich- Junior
1st Team All Mahoning County- K
1st Team All AAC-K
1st Team All Inland District Northeast-K
All State Honorable Mention-K

D.J. Erickson- Senior
1st Team All Mahoning County- OL
1st Team All AAC- OL
1st Team All Inland District Northeast-OL
1st Team All State- OL
Bryce Roberts- Senior
1st Team All AAC- DB
2nd Team All Inland District Northeast-DB
Luke Hash- Junior
1st Team All Mahoning County- LB
1st Team All AAC- LB
1st Team All Inland District Northeast-LB
3rd Team All State
Daniel Seaman- Senior
1st Team All Mahoning County- OL
2nd Team All AAC-OL
2nd Team All Inland District Northeast-OL
Gabe Miller- Junior
2nd Team All AAC-LB
2nd Team All Inland District Northeast-LB
Rocco Cocca-Sophomore
2nd Team All AAC-OL
2nd Team All Inland District Northeast-OL
Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Girls Tennis
Overall Record:
13-2
AAC Record:
6-0
Accomplishments:
AAC Champs
Accomplishments:
Hadley Moser
1st Team All AAC
Sectional Singles Champion
Marina Epp
1st Team All AAC
Sectionals- Doubles
4th Place
Sisi Nalluri
1st Team All AAC
Sectionals-
3rd Place Singles
Simran Sethi
1st Team All AAC
Sectionals-
Doubles 4th Place
Lainie Modarelli
2nd Team All AAC

Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Boys Golf
Overall Record:
9-0
AAC Record:
9-0
Accomplishments:
AAC Champions
Accomplishments:
Mick Ambrose
1st Team All AAC
AAC Player of the Tournament
Nathan Miller
1st Team All AAC
Danny Chaplow
1st Team All AAC
AAC Player of the Year
Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Girls Golf
Overall Record:
6-0
AAC Record:
6-0
Accomplishments:
AAC Champions
AAC Tournament Champions
Sectional Champions
District Placer-4th
State Qualifiers-10th
Accomplishments:
Alex Conley
All AAC
All AAC Player of the Year
Sectional Champions
Districts-4th
State Championships-10th
Natalie Sawicki
All AAC
Sectional Champions
Districts-4th
State Championships-10th
Aubree Philibin
All AAC
Sectional Champions
Districts-4th
State Championships-10th
Laney Kleeh
All AAC
Sectional Champions
Districts-4th
State Championships-10th
Lorin Sam
All AAC
Sectional Champions
District Championships-4th
State Championships-10th

Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Boys Soccer
Overall Record:
16-3
AAC Record:
7-1
Accomplishments:
AAC Champions
District Champions
Coach Simone- 200 Boys Wins, 450 Total Wins
Mark D'Eramo- Boys District Assistant of the Year, All Ohio Assistant Coach of the Year
Accomplishments:
Drew Snyder
1st Team All AAC
1st Team All District
D3 District Player of the Year
All Ohio
All-American
Ryan Dangol
1st Team All AAC
1st Team All District
Luke Goodrich
2nd Team All AAC
2nd Team All District
Brady Casey
1st Team All AAC
1st Team All District
Alec Dace
1st Team All AAC
1st Team All District
Nick Atsas
2nd Team AAC
2nd Team All District
Collin Casey
2nd Team All AAC
1st Team All County
Rocco Catheline
2nd Team All AAC
2st Team All County
Jared Toporcer
All County Honorable Mention
Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Girls Soccer
Overall Record:
12-7
AAC Record:
7-1
Accomplishments:
AAC Champions
District Finalist
Accomplishments:
Lexi Toporcer
1st Team All AAC

Fall All American Conference Selections and Honors

League Champions: Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Volleyball
Volleyball and Girls Soccer - District Runner-up
Boys Soccer - District Champions
Boys Golf - District Qualifiers
Girls Golf - OHSAA State Qualifiers
Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country - Regional Qualifiers
Football - Regional Semi-Finalists

1st Team All District All Ohio Lorieona Jannone 2nd Team All District Halle Toporcer 1st Team All AAC 1st Team All District Gianna Marino 1st Team All AAC 1st Team All District Carlyn McCormick 2nd Team All AAC 2nd Team All District Gabby Orr 2nd Team All AAC 1st Team All County Elliot Klimas 2nd Team All AAC 2nd Team All District Keira Faire 1st Team All County Madelynn Gray All County Honorable Mention Olivia Komyati 1st Team All County Taylor Arden 1st Team All County	AAC Player of the Year Selected to YSN All Star Game Vivian Biro 1st Team All AAC 2nd Team All District Paige Roberts 2nd Team All AAC Honorable Mention All District Selected to YSN All Star Game
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Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Boys Cross Country
Overall Record:
N/A
Suburban League Record:
N/A
Accomplishments:
7 Regional Qualifiers
2 State Qualifiers
Accomplishments:
Alex Hammar
Regional Qualifier
State Qualifier-35th
Alex Taranto
Regional Qualifier
State Qualifier-27th

Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Girls Volleyball
Overall Record:
20-4
AAC Record:
7-1
Accomplishments:
AAC Champions
District Runners-Up
Accomplishments:
Carly Fleming
1st Team All AAC
1st Team All District
Selected to YSN
All Star Game
Ashtyn Hanousek
1st Team All AAC
2nd Team All District

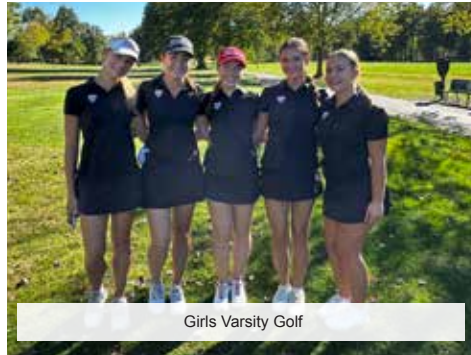
Final Results 2025-2026
Sport:
Girls Cross Country
Overall Record:
N/A
Suburban League Record:
N/A
Accomplishments:
7 Regional Qualifiers:
Sabrina Basket
Lillian Klimas
Gianna Gamberale
Abigail Hallos
Carina Gamberale
Alyssa Ilgenfritz
Quinn Laraway



CARDINAL COMMUNIQUE



Enzo Cocca



Girls Varsity Golf



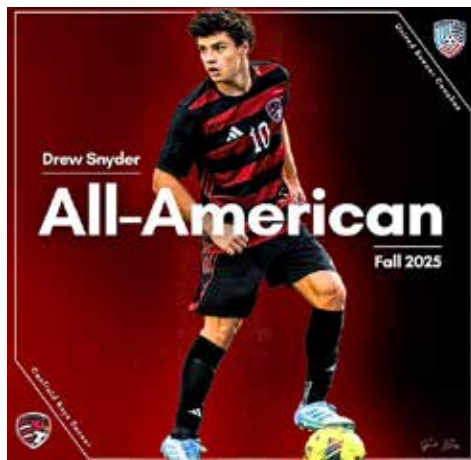
Soccer celebrates Coach Simone's 450th win



Girls Varsity Volleyball



Senior Tennis Players



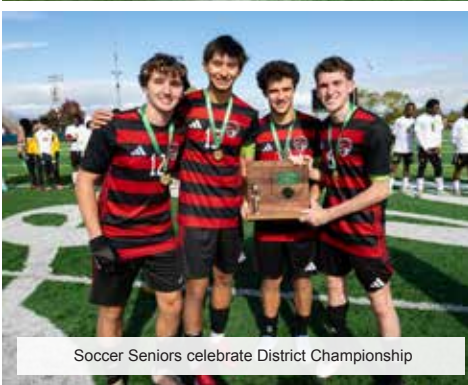
Drew Snyder

All-American

Fall 2025



Kiera Faire



Soccer Seniors celebrate District Championship



Cross Country State Qualifier Alex Hammar



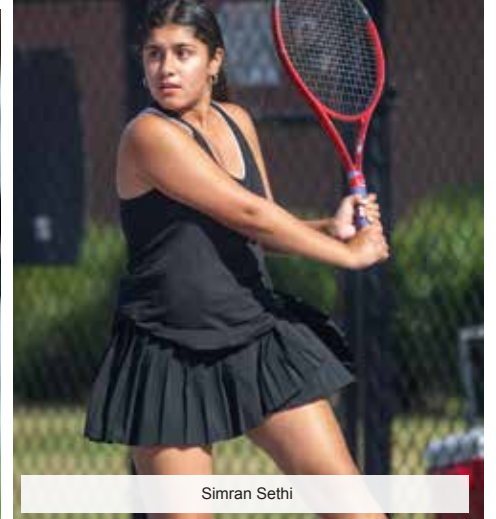
Sabrina Basket



Cross Country Runners



Landon Shina



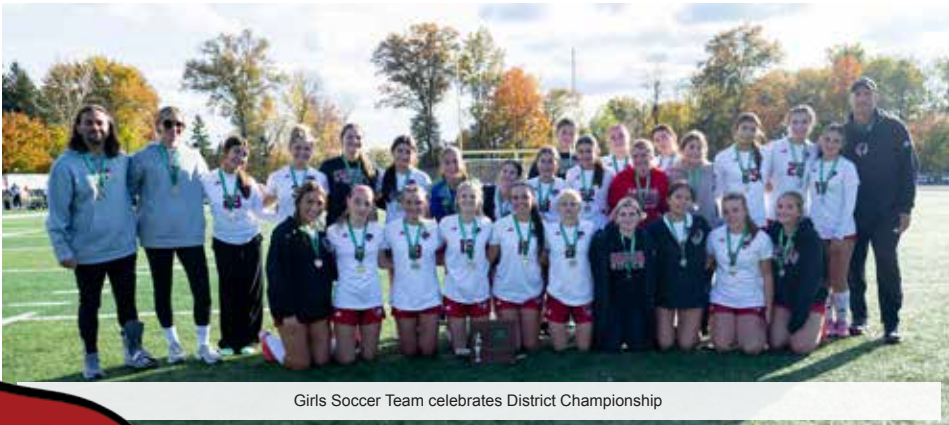
Simran Sethi



Lia Sahli



Cross Country State Qualifier Alex Taranto



Girls Soccer Team celebrates District Championship



Football Cheerleaders



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100 WADSWORTH STREET
CANFIELD, OH 44406

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Meet the Board of Education

January is Board of Education Appreciation Month, a time to recognize the dedicated individuals who guide and support our schools. This month, Canfield welcomes two new Board members, **Jill DeRamo** and **Katie L. Elford**. We also welcome our new treasurer, **Benjamin Marko**.

The district extends its sincere gratitude to **Traci DeCapua** and **Matt Campbell** for their commitment and contributions to the district. Their leadership and service have made a lasting impact on our Cardinal community.

The board meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Canfield High School Auditorium, unless publicly announced otherwise.



Mr. Nader Atway



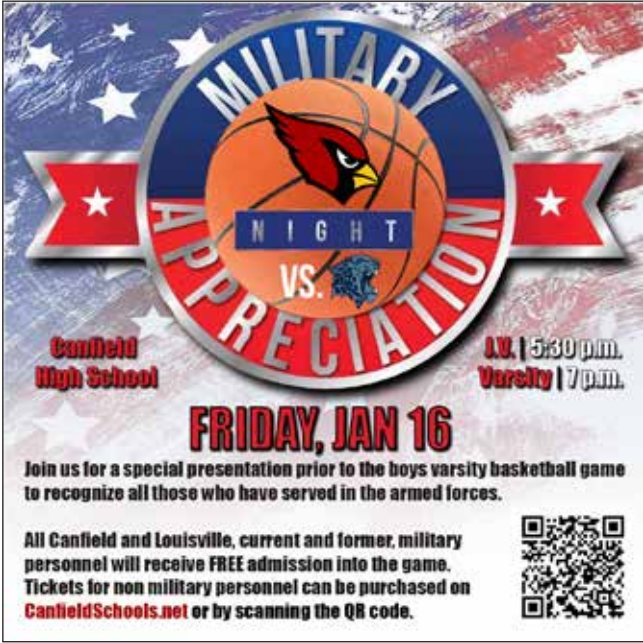
Dr. Betsy Ahlquist



Mr. Steven DeMaiolo



Mr. Ben Marko, Treasurer



NEW MEMBER
Mrs. Katie L. Elford



NEW MEMBER
Mrs. Jill DeRamo

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www.canfieldschools.net

District Sponsored Platforms



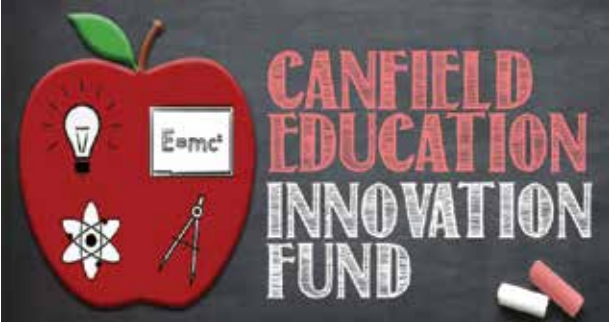
@CanfieldLocalSD



OUTGOING MEMBER
Mr. Matt Campbell



OUTGOING MEMBER
Mrs. Traci DeCapua



The district has established the Canfield Education Innovation Fund to promote, encourage, and enhance educational opportunities that strengthen and enrich our students' experiences. Staff members may apply for grant dollars for creative, innovative activities.

The fund is dependent on donations (no taxpayer dollars). Donations may be made payable to the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, memo line Canfield Education Innovation Fund. Scan the QR code, or visit canfieldeducationinnovationfund.org to donate now.

