

EMPOWER

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Buckeye Local Schools Families,

This season, our district continues to thrive. Whether it's students engaging deeply in classroom learning, staff leading with passion, or families showing support, we are seeing firsthand how a Buckeye education empowers students to be their very best.

We continue to prioritize clear and open communication to help our community stay connected and informed. Be sure to check out our newly refreshed district website, featuring photos that reflect the pride and energy of our students. We've also launched a new Instagram page to provide another way to engage with the amazing things happening every day in Buckeye.

This winter marks an exciting phase in our facilities plan, as we embark on the educational visioning process. Through a series of sessions with staff, students, and community stakeholders, we're shaping learning spaces that reflect both our academic values and community priorities. These conversations are empowering students, staff, and families to shape the future of Buckeye together.

Finally, with winter weather in full swing, we kindly ask families to support our transportation department by ensuring that house numbers and students are clearly visible to drivers, especially during dark mornings or snowy days.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of our schools. Together, we *Believe. Empower. Achieve.*

Go Bucks!

Jeffrey M. Stanton
Superintendent

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE



Snapshots from our schools!

IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| February 11 | Early Release |
| February 12 | Spring Conferences |
| February 16 | Presidents' Day (No School) |
| March 11 | Early Release |
| March 13 | End of Grading Period |
| March 30-April 6 | Spring Break (No School) |

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FINANCE

Happy New Year to all Buckeye Bucks!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to work for Buckeye Local Schools. The school board, administrative team, and staff all have a deep commitment to hard work, professionalism, and genuine care for our students. These values, and the positive environment they create, are what make Buckeye so special.

I have noticed, in my short time here, that our community shares this strong set of positive values. Beyond unmatched support for academic and athletic achievements, our students are encouraged to be good friends, active citizens, and exceptional leaders, and that is what makes a Buckeye graduate stand out in a crowd.

In my role as treasurer, I do not interact directly with students; however, I work each day to ensure they continue to have the opportunities and support needed to develop their own set of positive values. Thank you for being part of the Buckeye community and for supporting the dreams of our students.

Mark Donnelly
Treasurer

For more information on district finances, please visit the Treasurer's Department webpage at buckeyeschools.org/departments/treasurers-department.

CURRICULUM

As we begin the second semester of the school year, I would like to share an update on the dedicated work being done behind the scenes to empower Buckeye students with the highest quality education.

- LETRS training to strengthen the Science of Reading practices in elementary grades
- Zearn math training to enhance instruction in grades 4–8
- Data-driven instruction to support individualized student learning
- District-wide vertical alignment in Arts and Music
- Cross-curricular planning during early release sessions
- New Teacher Cohort providing mentorship and collaborative support
- Ongoing 6–12 math curriculum adoption
- Focus on multiple post-graduation pathways for all students

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and our mission to help every student succeed.

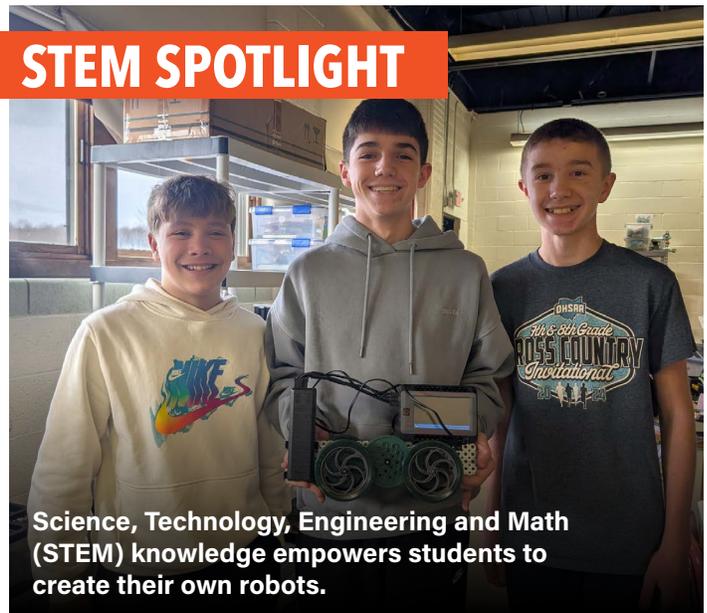
Bridget Elias
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

TECHNOLOGY



Technology supports learning, collaboration, and creativity in the classroom and beyond.

STEM SPOTLIGHT



Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) knowledge empowers students to create their own robots.

STUDENT SERVICES



The Student Services Department is more dedicated than ever to ensuring every Buckeye student has the tools to thrive. Through designated professional development, our staff sharpened their expertise across all levels. While intervention specialists mastered new instructional toolkits and legal updates, our preschool team completed specialized training to better support the developmental outcomes of our youngest learners.

In addition to classroom instruction, we have prioritized safety and behavioral support. Specifically, our paraprofessionals completed targeted behavior modules, and staff district-wide renewed their crisis prevention certifications. Furthermore, we collaborated with local leadership to update our district safety plan, ensuring a secure environment for all.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch new initiatives that foster independence and inclusion. Notably, our transition programs are expanding to better prepare students for life after graduation. Additionally, we are thrilled to announce the launch of Unified Sports Basketball, which brings students of all abilities together on the court. Ultimately, by refining our support systems today, we are ensuring every student is ready for a successful future.

Dawn Kochanek
Director of Student Services

OPERATIONS

Behind the scenes each day, Buckeye Local Schools takes a thoughtful, long-term approach to caring for its facilities and supporting daily operations. Several key projects are moving forward, all focused on providing safe, efficient, and well-maintained buildings and grounds.

The district has hired West Roofing Systems to replace the roof at the high school and bus garage, scheduled for summer 2026. Revere Roofing will also continue the elementary roofing project that began three summers ago. This maintenance will take place over the next two summers, concluding summer 2027.

Plans are also underway to upgrade the high school auditorium stage. These improvements will enhance performances, presentations, and community events, further supporting the many ways our facilities serve students and the broader community.

The board has approved an arrangement to work with Power4Schools through our consortium with the Ohio Schools Council. Beginning in 2027, this work will help lower energy costs in the district. Additionally, the board has approved the ability to enhance district fuel tanks.

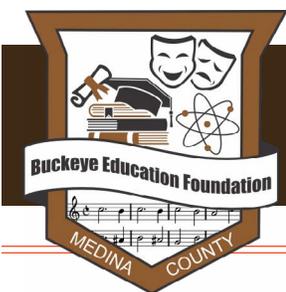
Finally, we are pleased to welcome Dave Pesorda as Buckeye's new maintenance supervisor. His experience and leadership will play a crucial role in ensuring our buildings operate smoothly and efficiently.

John Justice
Director of Operations

TRANSPORTATION



If you are interested in joining our Transportation Department team, please contact Transportation Supervisor Karen Galdun at 330-722-8257 ext. 1019.

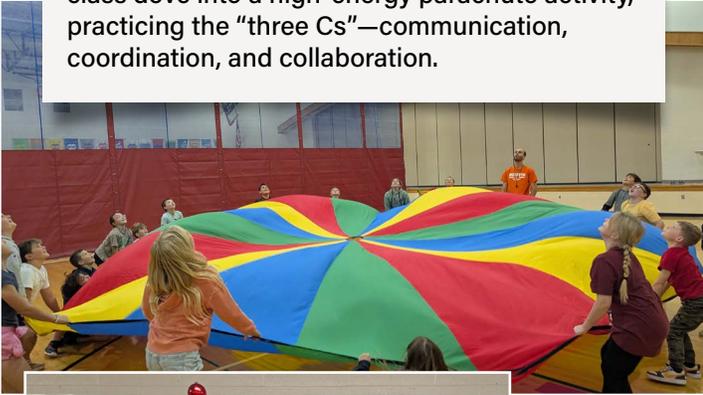


SUPPORT THE BUCKEYE EDUCATION FOUNDATION!

SAVE THE DATE: May 9, 2026 Annual Craig Bailey Memorial Run

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FUN

Students in Mr. Bartinelli’s physical education class dove into a high-energy parachute activity, practicing the “three Cs”—communication, coordination, and collaboration.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING REGISTRATION DATES

MARCH 1 - Registration for Kindergarten opens
Watch for Kindergarten Screening information to be posted on the Primary Website at this time!

MARCH 1 - Open Enrollment Application for 2026/2027 opens

APRIL 15 - Registration for New Students (Grades 1-12) opens

MAY 1 - Deadline for existing open-enrolled students to reapply

JUNE 1 - Deadline for new open enrollment applications



BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY

Inspired by the book *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet, our second graders created their own balloons to fly in the Balloons Over Broadway Primary Thanksgiving Parade. This year’s parade also featured our talented Intermediate Band students, Tom the Turkey, and a special appearance from Santa riding on his magical Zamboni.

PROJECT CARE

This school year, Project Care returned to Buckeye Primary School. Project Care is a service-based leadership opportunity for third-grade students that focuses on creating meaningful projects that promote kindness, empathy, and service within our school and the greater community.



CAMP NUHOP

Our 6th graders traded their desks for the great outdoors at Camp Nuhop. Nature became the ultimate classroom as students mastered the art of fire-building, paddled in sync across the water, and conquered the zip-line.

LITTLE BUCKS PRESCHOOL

2026-2027 Little Bucks Preschool Screening sign-ups for peer role models open on January 6, 2026.

All screening information and signups can be found on the preschool website. The screenings are scheduled to take place on February 27, March 6, and March 13 (if necessary). Families will be notified of acceptance by April 7, 2026.

Preschool Eligibility Requirements:

- Turn three years old by August 1, 2026
- Live in the Buckeye School District
- Be fully potty trained

JUNIOR HIGH *Highlights*



BRAIN POWER CHALLENGE

Eighth-grade students in Dr. Crabtree's and Mrs. Albrecht's classes paired up to tackle context clue puzzles, in a friendly race to be the first to piece correctly together their clues. The activity was a dynamic exercise in critical thinking, as students had to effectively communicate, interpret clues, and collaborate to solve problems.

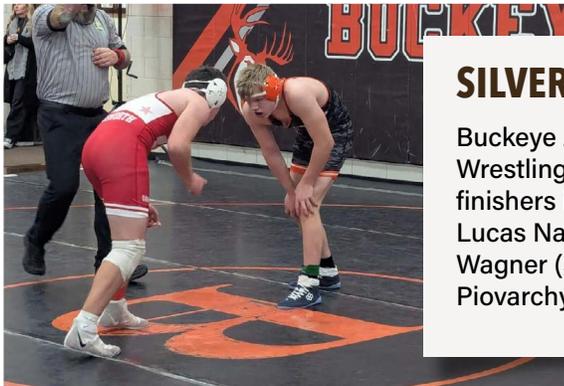
MAKERSPACE

Open daily during lunch, the Makerspace offers students a space to explore, create, and let their imaginations shine. Equipped with cutting-edge tools, including 3D printers, the Makerspace encourages creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on learning as students turn their ideas into reality.



FROM BUCKEYE TO BROADWAY

The Buckeye Local Schools Vocal Music Department concluded the fall season on a high note with its spectacular event, "From Buckeye to Broadway - A Musical Revue," held on November 21st and 22nd. Highlights included the talented voices of the Junior High Choir and the show-stopping harmony of the Junior High A Cappella group, Frequency.



SILVER BUCK WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Buckeye Junior High hosted its annual Silver Buck Middle School Wrestling Tournament, bringing home first place overall. Top finishers included Shane McKee (1st), Landon Piovarchy (1st), Lucas Naso (1st), Brody Geyer (2nd), Levi Maxworthy (3rd), Hayden Wagner (3rd), Carter Gentry (3rd), Danny Dozanti (3rd), Hayden Piovarchy (4th), Nick Sprinkle (4th), and Liam Danko (5th).

B HIGH SCHOOL *Highlights*

HOPE SQUAD

The Buckeye High School and Junior High Hope Squads joined forces with North Olmsted's teams for a collaborative summit that prepared these student leaders to serve as "ambassadors of hope" within their school communities. Throughout the day, members focused on identifying the warning signs of emotional distress and suicide. The training emphasized the vital role these students play in recognizing when a peer is struggling and bridging the gap between that student and a trusted adult.



CRAFT FAIR

Buckeye High School hosted its first-ever Craft Fair, sponsored by our school's dance advisor, in an effort to raise funds for future student dances. In this inaugural year, there were nearly sixty booths featuring jewelry, blankets, artwork and Buckeye spirit wear.



COMING SOON!

BUCKEYE ASSOCIATE'S ACADEMY

Earn an Associate of Arts degree while still in high school!

Through our growing partnership with Tri-C, we are excited to announce a new Associate's Degree Pathway, available to students starting with the 2026-2027 school year.

- Open to students in grades 10-12
- Includes in-person, online and hybrid courses
- Provides personalized support to excel in college-level work

Attend our upcoming information nights to learn more about the program.

General CCP Night: January 28, 5:30 pm

Associates Academy Info Night: February 12, 5:00 pm

COLLEGE NOW ADVISING

Buckeye High School is pleased to partner with College Now Greater Cleveland again this year to support students with their post-graduation plans.

Students and their parents/guardians can meet with advisor Jackson Stuff to discuss these important topics.

- Career exploration
- Postsecondary opportunities
- College searches
- Application process
- Scholarships
- Financial aid/planning
- FAFSA completion



Register using the Online Appointment Calendar

QUESTIONS?

Email Advisor Jackson Stuff at jstuff@collegenowgc.org.

VETERANS DAY

Buckeye High School's National Honor Society, together with Buckeye Junior High, welcomed nearly 40 veterans and their families to the annual Veterans Day Program. Speaker Dan Lawrence, father of senior Julia Lawrence, shared how his time in the U.S. Marine Corps shaped him into the man and father he is today. Following the presentation, all branches of the military were honored through the playing of each branch's hymn.



ATHLETIC *Highlights*

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE

I would like to take a moment to share our excitement for what lies ahead at Buckeye High School. Winter brings new opportunities to compete, grow, and continue providing first-class experiences for our student-athletes.

Our goal remains clear. We are dedicated to the relentless pursuit of excellence in all that we do. That means creating environments where our athletes are challenged, supported, and given every opportunity to succeed. It also means emphasizing collaboration, accountability, and growth. Each season, we see our students mature not only as competitors but as teammates, leaders, and young adults. That growth is just as important as any win or loss.

The potential within our winter programs is significant. With strong leadership from our coaches and continued support from our families and community, we believe our athletes are positioned to soar to new heights this season. There is something special about watching students commit to a process, overcome challenges, and experience success together, and winter sports provide countless moments where that happens.

Thank you for your continued support of Buckeye Athletics. We look forward to a great winter season and to sharing many exciting moments with our community.

Go Bucks!

John Myers
Athletic Director

GO BUCKS!

FALL SPORTS RECAP



GOLF

School-record score of 312; Luca Violi became the first Buckeye golfer at DI State.



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

First team in school history to reach the DII State Championship.



GIRLS SOCCER

13-3-3 record, District Champions, 7 All-District players.

NEVER MISS A MINUTE

Stay connected and up-to-date on schedules, results, and important athletic department information by visiting buckeyeathletics.org.

SUPPORT BUCKEYE ATHLETICS

Our programs rely heavily on the support of volunteers, and we are consistently in need of clock operators for home events. This role is vital to game operations, and training is provided. Interested volunteers can contact Buckeye High School Athletic Department at 330-722-8257 x3054.



FOOTBALL

First undefeated regular season in school history; 13th straight playoff berth.



Buckeye Local School District
 3044 Columbia Rd.
 Medina OH 44256

STAY CONNECTED!



www.buckeyeschools.org



Buckeye Local Schools



NEW!
[buckeye_local_schools](https://www.instagram.com/buckeye_local_schools)



BuckeyeSchools



BuckeyeLocalSchools

MASTER FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE

Community Visioning Underway

Buckeye Local Schools continues to build momentum on its facilities plan, marking an exciting phase in the district's long-term vision for students and the community. Made possible by years of responsible financial management, this work reflects a shared commitment to modern learning spaces that meet today's needs, while remaining fiscally responsible.

The facilities plan includes renovating the current high school to serve as the district's future junior high, along with constructing a new high school for grades 9-12 at the corner of Wolff and Columbia Roads. To guide this work, the Buckeye Local Schools Board of Education has engaged GPD Group as the district's architectural partner and CT Taylor Construction as Construction Manager at Risk (CMR).

With these partners in place, the district has begun the educational visioning process. This phase started in January 2026 and will continue through mid-March with a strong focus on gathering input from students, staff, and community members. An educational visioning team made up of district stakeholders is participating in facilitated sessions to help shape learning environments that reflect local priorities and educational goals.

At the conclusion of the visioning phase, the community will be invited to attend a special presentation summarizing the results. Additional engagement opportunities, including a community survey, will continue into the spring.



Scan the QR code to visit our facilities webpage for more information.

DESIGN PROCESS OVERVIEW

