# BUCKEYE UNION HAPPENINGS

## February 2026

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**SAVE THE DATE**

February 2 2026/2027 Enrollment began
March 25 Heritage Festival
March 30-April 6 Spring Break
May 25 Memorial Day
June 2 Last Day of School
August 12 First Day of School

2026 BOARD CALENDAR







5049 Robert J. Mathews Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
Phone: 916-985-2183 www.buckeyeusd.org

# BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

### DISTRICT MISSION

Working together with families, the community, and highly qualified staff, the Buckeye Union School District ensures that each student masters the knowledge and skills needed to maximize their academic and personal success in a global society.

# ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
# DECEMBER 10, 2025

**CLICK HERE**
for Board Meeting information



Thank you to our
2025 Board President,
Brenda Hanson-Smith, Ph.D.,
for your hard work and commitment
to Buckeye Union School District!

## ANNOUNCING YOUR BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board President - Kirk Seal
Clerk - Melissa Keyzer
Member - Brenda Hanson-Smith, Ph.D.
Member - Jon Yoffie
Member - Scott Masten, Ph.D.

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# JANUARY WAS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH




Schools and Buckeye Union departments collaborated to create a surprise “Thank You Board” banner for our amazing Board at the January 21 meeting. We are grateful for their leadership and dedication in making Buckeye Union the very best it can be!



# STUDENT RECOGNITION




**November 12, 2025**

The Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills honors **Valley View student, Finnegan Loarie,** as Student of the Year

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**November 13, 2025**

The Rotary Club of Cameron Park honors **Camerado Springs student, Juliet Cheli,** as Student of the Quarter



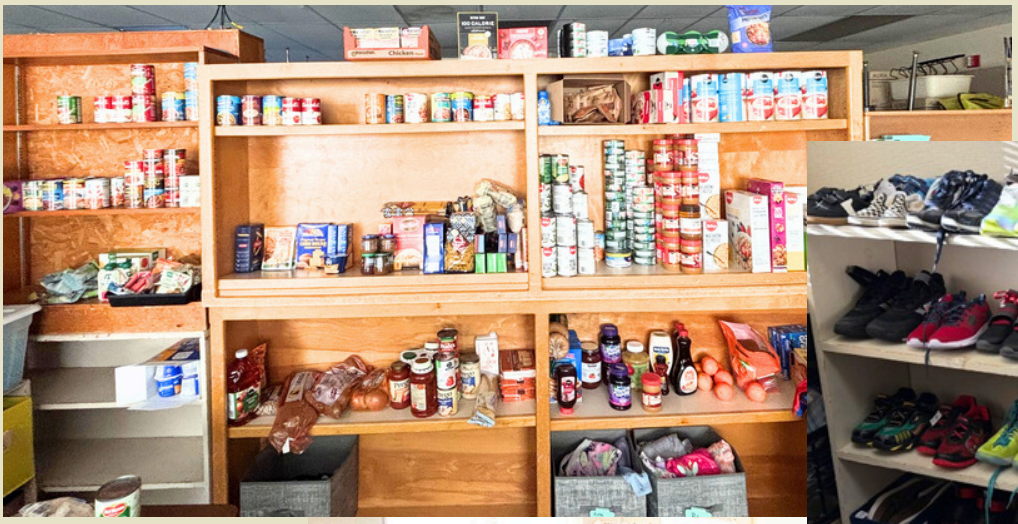
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**January 14, 2026**

The Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills honors **William Brooks student, Chloe Younger,** as Student of the Year

# Family Resource Center at Buckeye Elementary









Mountain Democrat

VILLAGE life
IN EL DORADO HILLS

# Quiz Bowl tournament

Rolling Hills 10-11-25



We have fun, and we're really smart too!

The Quiz Bowl tournament was hosted at Churchill Middle School in Carmichael, CA. Both Rolling Hills teams placed in the top third! Laura Leszinske, Library Associate, was an awesome leader!

JV Middle School Division:
Rolling Hills A = 1st place (Hrishan P, Kristof P, Jaxson O, and George A)
Rolling Hills B = 4th place (Noe L, Allie C, and Vihaan V)

# Understanding scale and proportion of the solar system with Mr. Villalobos

Rolling Hills 1-13-26



# Rolling Hills Claims Championship!

12-11-25





# Lunar New Year celebrated by Mandarin Immersion

February 2026

Students and staff recently gathered on the Oak Meadow and Rolling Hills campuses to celebrate the **Lunar New Year** and welcome the **Year of the Fire Horse** with a vibrant and festive event!

Students from each grade level of the Mandarin Immersion school performed. A highlight of the celebration was the performance by traditional lion dancers, who brought energy and excitement as they danced through the crowd, tossing lettuce to symbolize good luck and prosperity. The event offered a wonderful opportunity for cultural appreciation and community connection, as students learned about the rich traditions and symbolism of the Lunar New Year.









WATCH VIDEO on Facebook

# Unified Soccer Tournament

Hosted by Silva Valley 11-14-25



Students from local elementary schools recently came together for an inspiring **Unified Sports soccer game**, promoting inclusion, teamwork, and community spirit. The event brought students of all abilities together on the field, fostering friendships and celebrating diversity through the power of sports. It was a memorable day filled with smiles, encouragement, and great sportsmanship, highlighting the positive impact of inclusive activities in our schools.



# Box Out Bullying Assembly

Oak Meadow 1-15-26







This assembly was followed up with an Anti-Bullying Parent Education night on January 21

# Sly Park Field Trip

Blue Oak November 2025






5th-grade students recently attended an incredible overnight field trip to Sly Park Environmental Education Center! During their stay, students explored forest ecosystems, discovered how plants and animals depend on one another, and learned how communities use science to protect our natural resources. It was a memorable hands-on experience that strengthened their understanding of the environment while building independence, teamwork, and lifelong memories.

# Conservation Ambassador Assembly

Blue Oak 1-6-26







# Microgreens Class

William Brooks 10-20-25





# Mikuni Visit

Brooks Garden

11-4-25



Favorite Taro Quotes:

Tall buildings have a deep foundation

Do your best EVERY DAY

Favorite Student Quote:

Can we make a happy roll?



# Jim teaching students in the garden

William Brooks 11-12-25

# Book Fair

William Brooks 10-21-25







William Brooks
Principal, Mr. Dameral,
to continue in 26/27
**“You’re Stuck With Us!”**

# 2nd/3rd Play - Rumpus in the Rainforest

William Brooks 12-16-25



# Appreciation Assembly

Valley View 2-4-26




# Sly Park Fieldtrip

Valley View 11-3-25



## Valley View Elementary took FIRST PLACE in The Stock Market Game competition




# Global School Play Day

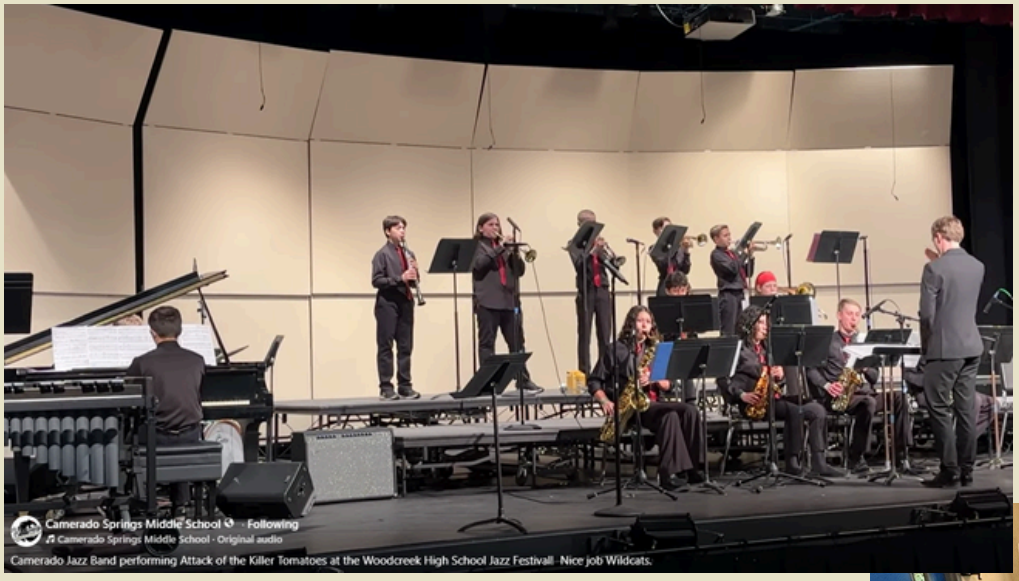
Valley View 2-4-26

Students playing Oregon Trail








# Jazz Band performing “Attack of the Killer Tomatoes” at the Woodcreek High School Jazz Festival

Camerado Springs 2-7-26

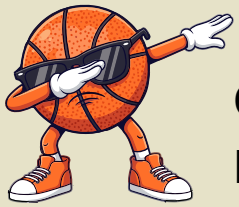





# 8th grade students dissecting Sheep Eyes

Camerado Springs 2-12-26

# Congrats to Camerado’s “Run It Back” who won this year’s 3-on-3 intramural basketball tournament!



Camerado Springs
February 2026



# BUCKEYE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## 2025 VIRTUAL ART SHOW: "WHAT I'M GRATEFUL FOR"



El Dorado Hills Library Display




Buckeye USD District Office Display

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Transitional Kindergarten** | Sofia Schmitt | Changing Seasons |
| **Kindergarten** | Henry Fung<br>Eli Moran | Me with My Art Teacher<br>The Wonderful World |
| **1st Grade** | Peyton Dariano | I am Grateful for Freedom |
| **2nd Grade** | Blake Silva | Polly |
| **3rd Grade** | Logan Longacre | The Shiny Apple |
| **4th Grade** | Maddix Collins<br>Savina Patel | Stormie<br>A Colorful Place |
| **5th Grade** | Emily Moon | My Friends |
| **6th Grade** | Jonethan Hau | I'm Thankful for World Peace |
| **7th Grade** | Jingyang Zhang<br>Angela Wong | Mountain<br>Untitled |
| **8th Grade** | Yuxi Nan | Willow Creek |

December 10 - Melissa Keyzer, Foundation Leader and Board member, presented students receiving recognition with a certificate



# BUCKEYE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Thanks to generous community donations, the Buckeye Education Foundation continues to give back

## $500 G.A.T.E. Grants

In the fall, the Foundation sent $500 per site to boost the GATE activities.  The funds have gone to great use!

## Stipend Enhancements

The Foundation recognizes the vital importance of your efforts in supporting the many special activities that serve our students. Many stipend positions have received increases of 60%.

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## Dr. Roth holding LCAP Meetings with Middle School Students

As part of our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) process, the Superintendent recently met with middle school students to hear directly about their school experiences. State law requires districts to gather input from educational partners — including students — and these conversations help ensure that district goals, programs, and funding priorities reflect the real needs of our learners. Student voice is an important part of shaping the future of our schools.



# BUSD EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



## Bob Burkhardt, Transportation Department, December 10, 2025

## Katherine Wellman, Teacher, Valley View, December 10, 2025



Paul Stewart, Valley View Principal congratulated Katherine, third grade teacher, and stated that she is an outstanding educator and team member who was instrumental in leading the successful schoolwide Rattler Run fundraiser and is highly respected by students and colleagues.

Superintendent Roth presented Katherine with a certificate and stated appreciation for her leadership, strong instructional practices, positive school relationships, and significant contributions to student learning and school culture.

## Katie Woodfill, Teacher Associate, Valley View, December 10, 2025



Paul Stewart, Valley View Principal, congratulated Katie, Transitional Kindergarten Instructional Aide, and stated that she has made a meaningful impact through her dedication, strong relationships with students, and positive contributions to the Valley View school community.

Superintendent Roth presented Katie with a certificate and stated appreciation for her commitment to students, collaborative spirit, and the care and enthusiasm she brings to her role supporting Transitional Kindergarten.

## Esther Dawson, Teacher, Buckeye El, January 21, 2026



Kevin Cadden, Buckeye Elementary School Principal, congratulated Esther and recognized her exceptional leadership as a special education learning specialist, citing her passion for student growth, high expectations, continuous learning, and meaningful impact on student achievement and campus culture.

Superintendent Roth presented Esther with a certificate and praised her commitment, professionalism, and nurturing yet accountable approach, noting her role as a highly valued member of the Buckeye Union School District team.

## Katie Twergo, Teacher Associate, Buckeye El, January 21, 2026



Kevin Cadden, Buckeye Elementary School Principal, congratulated Katie and recognized her outstanding work in special education, noting her consistent support of students with diverse needs, her positive impact on behavior and academics, and her willingness to step in wherever needed, including Unified Sports and extracurricular support.

Superintendent Roth presented Katie with a certificate and commended her dedication, flexibility, and commitment to Buckeye students, highlighting her courage in joining the district during a challenging time and her strong reputation among staff and families.

# BUSD EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

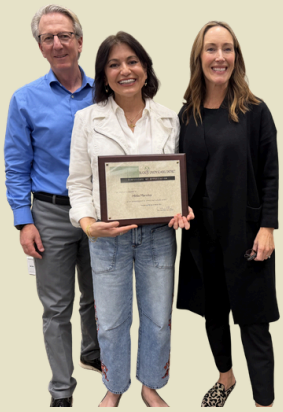
**Lisa Olmstead, SPED Teacher, Blue Oak, February 4, 2026**



Julie Hughes, Blue Oak Principal, congratulated Lisa and stated that she exemplifies professionalism, organization, and compassion, supporting student academic growth while fostering a calm, structured, and welcoming learning environment for students and colleagues, alongside her therapy dog, Marigold.

Superintendent Roth presented Lisa with a certificate and commended her steady leadership and thoughtful problem-solving, noting that her calm presence, together with Marigold, helps create a supportive environment for students.

**Hilda Marinko, Administrative Assistant, Blue Oak, February 4, 2026**



Julie Hughes, Blue Oak Principal, congratulated Hilda and stated that she is a dedicated and joyful leader who has successfully transitioned into the full-time site secretary role, consistently creating a welcoming environment for students, families, and staff while keeping the front office running smoothly.

Superintendent Roth presented Hilda with a certificate and recognized her as one of the warmest and most positive presences on campus, noting her strong connection with students and her ability to support the school community during stressful moments.

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**We are so proud to celebrate our outstanding staff members who were selected by their colleagues to be recognized as Employees of the Year, honoring their dedication, professionalism, and having a positive impact on our students and school community.**

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY STUDENT

Buckeye USD is home to Award-Winning Schools with amazing teachers, facilities, curriculum, libraries, PE programs...and so much MORE.

**More Programs.**
**More Opportunities.**
**More Success!**

- Band and VAPA LEARN MORE
- GATE LEARN MORE
- STEM LEARN MORE
- Athletic Programs
- Meet the Masters
- Gardens
- Student Clubs
- CJSF

# NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL KITCHEN

Buckeye Union School District Food Service
Fresh Start

## TO DO

As a result of new legislation and funding from the State, Buckeye Union School District will continue to provide free meals to all students for the 2025-26 school year. However, in order to ensure Buckeye USD **receives ALL available funding this year, ALL families, regardless of family income, are asked to complete BOTH of the following forms:**

### School Education Benefit Form

Even if your student(s) may not choose to take advantage of our meal services, completing this form will assist our schools in continuing to qualify for grants that support every school in Buckeye Union.

For the 2025-26 school year, the School Education Benefit Form also qualifies families for PEBT cards.

### Federal Meal Application

Meal applications help qualify families and the school district for additional services such as grants, program funding, athletic waivers, textbook assistance, and PEBT cards, among others.

To access menus and other Nutrition Services information, click **HERE**

Letter from the Superintendent

FARM FRESH



# RAISE THE BASE!







California's current school funding base does not reflect the true cost of educating students. Districts across the state are coming together to advocate for adequate and equitable base funding for all students.

To learn more about the efforts, visit the website at [www.RaisetheBase.org](http://www.RaisetheBase.org)

# COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE

## FOR BUCKEYE USD PARENTS & FAMILIES

The Buckeye Union School District aims to engage all members of its school community through open, honest, and transparent communication. This Communication Guide serves as a key resource for our families, while helping you get answers to your questions or concerns in a timely manner.

## DISTRICT COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- www.BuckeyeUSD.org
- Parent Portal: Alma
- Emails & Connect Messages
- Report Bullying or Safety Concerns
- School Facebook pages
- Newsletters

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY

### SCHOOL

- Website
- School Newsletters
- Social Media pages
- Teacher Communications and classroom websites
- Connect Emails/ Communications

### DISTRICT

- Website
- District Happenings Newsletter (quarterly)
- District Highlights Newsletter (semi-annual)
- Connect Emails/ Communications
- Board Meetings

5049 ROBERT J MATHEWS PARKWAY | EL DORADO HILLS CA 95762 | (916) 985-2183

# BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Approved 9/18/2024**

*"Expect the Best Today for a Better Tomorrow"*

## 2025-2026 Student Calendar

### AUG

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

- 4-5 Teachers Only (Non Student Day)
- 6 *FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- 29 Staff Development Day—All Staff (Non-Student Day)

### SEPT

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | | | |

- 1 Labor Day Holiday
- 22-26 Minimum Days—Parent Conferences ALL SCHOOLS

### OCT

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

- 13 Staff Development Day—Teachers Only (Non-Student Day)
- 31 End of 1st Trimester

### NOV

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | |

- 10 Non-Teacher Work Day (Non-Student Day)
- 11 Veterans Day
- 24-28 Thanksgiving Break (Non-Student Days)

### DEC

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

- 12/22-1/2 Winter Break (Non–Student Days)

### JAN

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

- 1-2 Winter Break Cont. (Non–Student Days)
- 19 M. Luther King Jr. Day
- 23 Minimum Day—*Only* RH and CSMS

### FEB

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | | | |

- 1 3 E nd of 2 nd Tri mester
- 13 Non-Teacher Work Day (Non-Student Day)
- 16-20 Mid-Winter Break
- 16 Presidents' Day and Washington's Birthday
- 20 Lincoln's Birthday (Observed)

### MAR

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 30 | 31 | | | |

- 5-6 Minimum Days—*Only* Elementary Parent Conferences
- 16 Staff Development Day—All Staff (Non-Student Day)
- 30-31 Spring Break (Non-Student Days)

### APR

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

- 1-6 Spring Break (Non-Student Days)

### MAY

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

- 25 Memorial Day Holiday

### JUNE

| M | T | W | T | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | | | |

- 1 CSMS Minimum Day (Noon Dismissal)
- 1 RHMS Late Start (10:00 a.m. Student Start)
- 2 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL—MINIMUM DAY—ALL SCHOOLS
- 19 Juneteenth (ESY Staff Will Observe on Alternate Day 7/2/26)

- First Day/Last Day of Classes
- Staff Development Day (Non-Student Day)
- Minimum Days
- Holidays or Breaks
- Early Release Days
- Per Site: Emergency School Closure Days, If Needed

# BUCKEYE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

**July**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

7/3 Independence Day Observed

**August**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 31 | | | | |

8/10-8/11 Teacher Workday (Non-Student Day)

8/12 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

8/28 Staff Development Day (Non-Student Day)

**September**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

9/7 Labor Day

9/28-9/30 Minimum Days Parent Conferences (All Schools)

**October**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

10/1-10/2 Minimum Days Parent Conferences (All Schools)

10/12 Staff Development Day (Non-Student Day)

10/30 End of 1st Trimester

**November**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 30 | | | | |

11/4-11/5 Minimum Days (Only Elementary Schools)

11/11 Veterans Day

11/23-11/27 Thanksgiving Break

**December**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

12/21-12/31 Winter Break (Non-Student Days)

Note: EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS

**January**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

1/1 Winter Break (Non-Student Days)

1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/22 Minimum Day (Only RHMS and CSMS)

**February**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

2/12 End of 2nd Trimester

2/12 Staff Development Day (All Staff)

2/15-2/19 Mid-Winter Break

2/15 & 2/19 Washington/Lincoln's (President Days) Observed

**March**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

3/4-3/5 Minimum Days (Only Elementary Schools)

3/22-3/29 Spring Break (Non-Student Days)

**April**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

**May**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 31 | | | | |

5/31 Memorial Day

**June**

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

6/3 Minimum Day for CS / RH CSMS – 12 p.m. Dismissal RHMS – 10 a.m. Late Start

6/4 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

6/7-6/8 Emergency School Closure Days (If Necessary)

6/18 Juneteenth Observed

**26/27 First Day of School Wed. 8/12/26**

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**APPLY @**

*We are Buckeye!*

EDJOIN.ORG

