



THE BLUE DEVIL DISPATCH

MARCH 2026



From the Superintendent

To our Wickliffe Schools' family,

I want to take a moment today to provide a clear update on the significant changes that will impact our students and families in the upcoming school year. As most of you know, voters in Wickliffe have rejected our recent levy requests, and as a result we are obligated to provide a 'reduction plan' to the State of Ohio. After hundreds of hours of work and consideration, we have built and the State has approved this plan.

As Superintendent, **these decisions were very hard and not made lightly**. These have been stressful to consider, and I am grateful for the hard work of our Board, Administration, and Staff as we've pieced together the best path forward for our schools and community. This reflects the financial realities we face paired with our commitment to essential education with reduced funding. These reductions will **trim our budget by over \$2.5 million per year**, and put us on a much more stable financial footing for the future.

Here are the **BIG PICTURE CHANGES** we will make in the 2026-27 school year:

- Reduction of staff positions: including **3 Full-Time Administrators, 13 Full-Time Teaching** positions, and **15 Building Monitor** positions.
- Reduction of **5 Bussing Routes** and increasing of the "walk zone" to 2 miles.
- Transition to a **Half-Day Kindergarten** program.

- Transition to a **Full Cost, Pay-to-Participate** model for all athletic and extracurricular programs.
- Streamlining **High School Electives** offerings, and removal of low-enrollment and non-essential courses.

As you may also know, there is an Earned Income Tax levy being placed on May 5th ballot. If passed, we will evaluate which of these can be adjusted – however, even if passed the funds would not be accessible until 2027, meaning few of these would be restored within a year.

We recognize that this will have a real impact on our students, families, staff, and community. We are committed to being transparent, communicative, and supportive as we move through this together. More details will come with time – like changes to campus start/end times, schedules, and fee structures.

Thank you for your understanding, trust, and partnership as we work to provide the best possible educational experience within our capacity.

Sincerely, Mike Chokshi
Superintendent, Wickliffe City Schools

Additional Information

Kindergarten Program Changes

- Kindergarten will transition to a half-day program for all students.
- Placement in AM or PM Kindergarten will be based on classroom capacity and need to maintain a balanced enrollment across sessions.

K-6 Electives

- Only Physical Education will be offered in grades K-6 in some regular capacity per state law.
- Band will be offered in Grade 5 and Grade 6, but on a limited basis.
- No other electives will be offered.

7-8 Electives

- 9 week rotation of physical education, art, technology, and CTE

HS Course Offerings

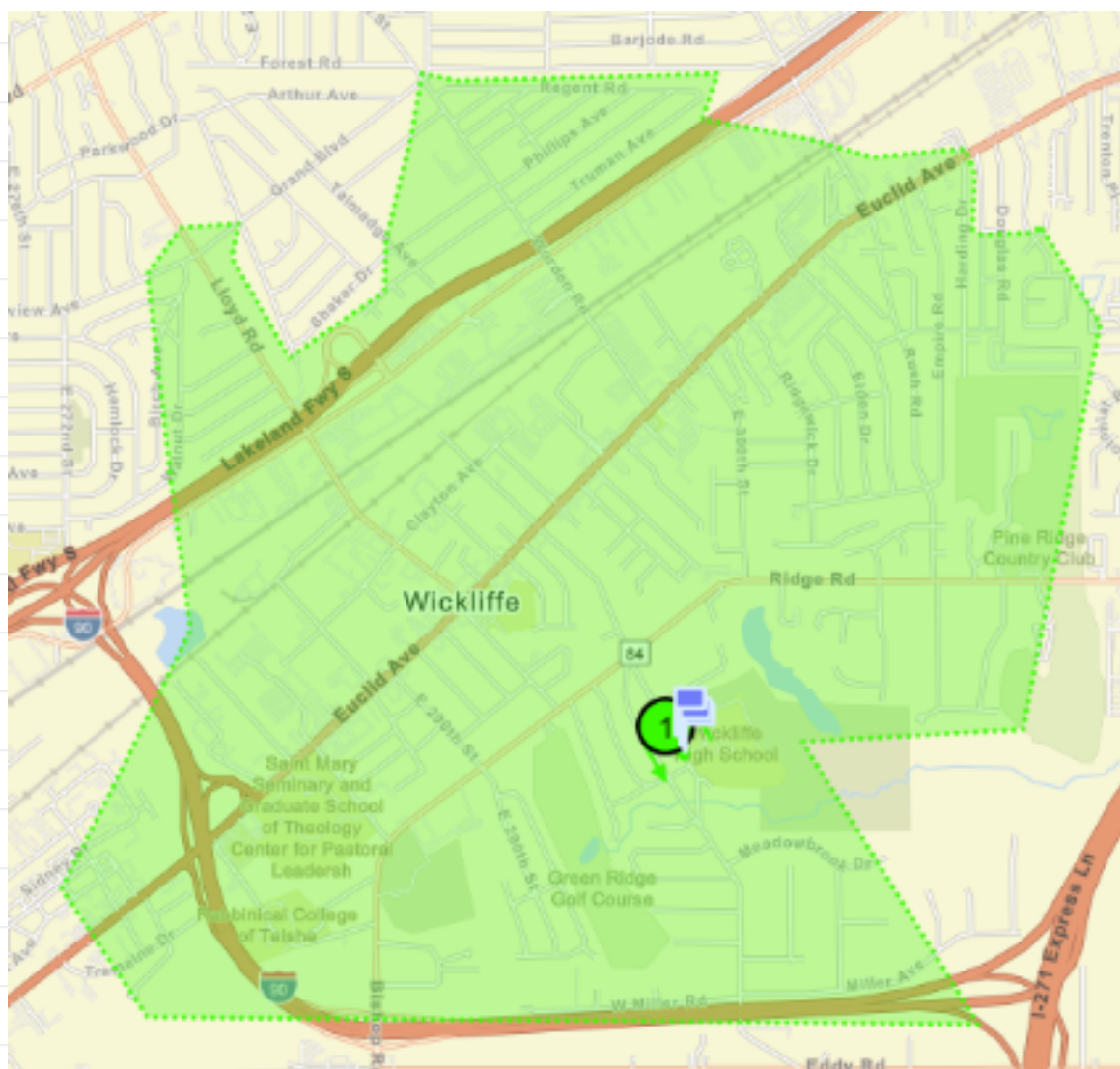
- Overall, high school electives will be streamlined, with low-enrollment and non-essential courses removed from the master schedule. Each grade will have one period for electives, with the following options:
 - **9th Grade** – 4 content areas and Health, 1 semester elective choice
 - **10th Grade** – 4 content areas and Financial Literacy, 1 semester elective choice
 - **11th Grade** – 4 content areas, CTE, CCP, or 1 elective
 - **12th Grade** – Remaining Graduation Requirements, CTE, or CCP
 - **Band** – offered in Grade 7-12, but in a different capacity than the traditional ‘class period’.
- Advanced Placement (AP) and honors offerings will be reduced to only courses with consistently high enrollment.
- Career-technical education partnerships will continue with Mentor and Willoughby-Eastlake.
- CCP courses at Lakeland CC and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will remain available.
- ‘*Learn, Lead, Serve*’ will have only one section.
- Extracurricular clubs will operate **IF** they are self-funded or supported by outside boosters.

Pay-to-Participate Fees

- All athletic and extracurricular programs will move to a full cost 'pay-to-participate' model.
- Fees will reflect the actual 'true' cost of running each program.

Transportation

- Beginning in 2026/2027, bussing/ transportation will be provided ONLY to K-8 students living over 2 miles from their school building.
- Map (on right) highlights the "walk zone" in green. Busing will only be available for those outside the highlighted green area.
- Families living within the 2-mile "walk zone" will be responsible for arranging their own transportation.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!
FB.com/WickliffeCSD

Follow Us on Facebook!

Stay connected with Wickliffe City School District by following our official [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/WickliffeCSD) for important updates, school news, and upcoming events. We look forward to staying connected with our families throughout the year.



School Attendance

From the Attendance Office

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



Please notify the office first thing in the morning by phone, email, or note if your child will be leaving school early. Without prior notice, there may be a delay in getting your student to the office for dismissal, which could cause you to be late for your appointment. Lower School parents should also inform their child's teacher. Thank you for your cooperation!

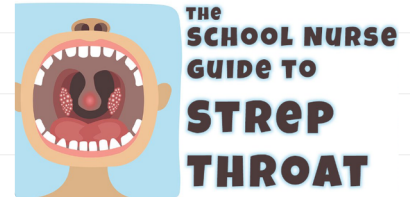
From the Nurses' Office

As we enter the cold and flu season, we are seeing an increase in illnesses throughout our school communities, we want to take a moment to remind our families of the importance of staying home when sick. Please see the guidelines below to help determine when students should remain at home due to illness. Reach out to your school nurses if you have any questions, or need any

additional guidance. We appreciate your partnership in helping to minimize the spread of illnesses in school!

SCHOOL NURSE

Important Health Update: Increase in Strep Throat Cases



- **What is Strep?** Strep throat is a contagious bacterial infection (group A streptococcus) commonly causing sore throat, fever, pain with swallowing, and sometimes nausea or rash.
- **When to Keep Your Child Home:** If your child has symptoms, please keep them home and contact your healthcare provider.
- **Return to School Policy:** Students may return to school 24 hours *after* their first dose of antibiotics, provided they are fever-free without medication.
- **Prevention Tips:**
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
 - Replace toothbrushes 24-48 hours after starting antibiotics.
 - Do not share food, drinks, or utensils.
- **Action Required:** If your child is diagnosed with strep, please notify the school health office.

Key Reminders for Parents:

- **24-Hour Rule:** Students must be fever-free (less than 100°F) for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning.

Nurse's Notes

When to stay home from school: the 24-Hour Rule!

When to Stay Home

"When to Stay Home" Guide: Provide a clear checklist. Common criteria for keeping a child home include:

- **Fever:** 100.4°F or higher; must be fever-free for **24 hours** without medication before returning.
- **Vomiting or Diarrhea:** Must be symptom-free for 24 hours.
- o **Rashes:** Any unidentified or weeping rash should be evaluated by a provider.
- o **General Malaise:** If the child is too fatigued to participate in normal activities.
- **Prevention Tips:** Remind families of "everyday germ fighters" like frequent handwashing, covering coughs with an elbow, and avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth.

PARENT- TEACHER conferences



Parent Teacher Conferences

Grades K-6 from 3-6pm

March 11th

YOU'RE INVITED TO

DONUTS

WITH grownups

Date	Day of Week	Grade Level	Where?
4/7/26	Tuesday	4th	Commons
4/8/26	Wednesday	5th	
4/9/26	Thursday	6th	
4/13/26	Monday	3rd	
4/14/26	Tuesday	PS AM & K	Commons
		PS PM (11:40 - 12:10)	PS Classrooms
4/15/26	Wednesday	1st	Commons
4/16/26	Thursday	2nd	



Upper School Info



SAT[®]

SAT - Juniors

All Juniors will be taking the state-funded SAT on the morning of Tuesday, March 10, 2026. See SAT letter for more information.

[SAT Letter Juniors](#)

[SAT Student Guide 2026](#)

[SAT Test Prep Links](#)

CollegeCredit PLUS

Earn Free College Credits!

CCP Information Night

Unable to attend CCP Information Night on Feb 9th? The presentation link and flyers are posted on School Counseling Google Classrooms. Required forms and packets are available in the school counseling office.

College Credit Plus is Ohio's dual enrollment program that provides students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to earn both college credits and high school credits.

For participation and acceptance into the CCP program, students must meet the ccp admissions criteria set by the college or university.

[WUS CCP 26 27 Timeline](#)
[Learn more about CCP at Lakeland](#)
[Lakeland New CCP Checklist](#)
[CCP Info Night Presentation](#)

Highlights From Our Campus

The Campus of Wickliffe welcomes back NAMI's Ending the Silence program for students in grades 6-12. This is an engaging presentation that helps middle and high school aged youth learn about the warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if you or a loved one are showing symptoms of a mental health condition. Presentations will take place March 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Visit [NAMI.ORG](https://www.nami.org) to learn more:
[EndingtheSilence](#)



Annual Mentorcares Basketball Game 🏀

The Wickliffe Upper School Student Council recently hosted their annual Mentorcares Basketball Game on Friday, February 20, featuring a matchup between the Upper School Boys Basketball Team and the Mentorcares Team. Students organized the game, created signs for the players, and helped foster a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the Mentorcares team. This is an event the Student Council is proud to host each year, and we are always grateful for everyone's time and effort in making it a success!



Rockefeller Road Review

Rockefeller Road Revue Dates and Times

Friday, March 27 - 7:30

Saturday, March 28 - 7:30

Sunday, March 29 - 3:00

Friday, April 3 - 7:30

Saturday, April 4 - 7:30

WCS PTO

Meeting is March 11, 2026 from 6:30 - 7:30

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

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

WCS FRC

NEWSLETTERS



Access the Family Resource Center newsletter [here](#)! Stay in the know about things like Primary Care and Dental services through Signature Health, Community Laundry events, county services such as HEAP/PIPP, and so much more!

Click here for the FRC Newsletter!

Mobile Dentist

🦷 Tooth decay is the No. 1 chronic disease of childhood—but it's preventable. When parents enroll early, children are more likely to receive care that keeps them healthy, in school, and ready to learn.



The Mobile Dentists will be visiting the Campus of Wickliffe on **March 11-13th!** All Wickliffe students grades PK-12 are eligible to receive dental services. *Click the picture for more information!*

Register online using the link below.

https://www.myschooldentist.com/WEWIOH_sch

🍽️ Empty Bowls Event 🍽️

Empty Bowls Event - March 12th
Help Combat Hunger, One Bowl at a Time
EMPTY BOWL Event

North Coast Lions Club and General Federation of Women's Club EASTLAKE OHIO are partnering to host an EMPTY BOWLS Project. Empty Bowls is a global fundraising movement started in 1990, focusing on HUNGER in the community. The purpose of Empty Bowls is to raise funds for local food banks and educate people about the issues of poverty and hunger in their community. Local Artisans donate bowls, guests choose a bowl, and enjoy a simple dinner of soup, bread, and dessert. The bowls are theirs to keep. [Learn more about the Empty Bowls movement here.](#)



When: Thursday, March 12, 2026 from 5-7 pm, doors open at 4:30pm

Where: Willow Praise Church, Willowick, Ohio

Donation: \$20

Contact Lori at 440-530-0789 or lorihlosek@yahoo.com for more information

All monies raised go to local food banks.

Wickliffe Upper School Art classes and Learn. Lead. Serve. have designed and donated 24 bowls for the event.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FAIR APRIL 14, 2026

Visit over 25 different community agencies to discover your ideal volunteer position!



**3:30-6:30 PM
OPEN HOUSE**



**Mentor Public Library
8215 Mentor Ave.
Mentor, OH 44060**

JOIN US

Use the QR code to register for a reminder!



**YOUTH
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SERVICE HOUR
REQUIREMENTS**

**VISIT
ONE-ON-ONE
WITH AGENCY
CONTACTS**





Splash Into Summer! ***Join the Wickliffe Water Devils Swim Team***

Why Join Us?

Have fun, make friends, strengthen your muscles and your mind while learning the sport of swimming! We offer personalized coaching to help swimmers with varying skill levels to develop and advance.

Everyone is Welcome!

Our team is **not** limited to Wickliffe residents. We are looking for swimmers between 5-17 years old that are able to swim one length (25 yards) of the pool at a minimum. No previous swim team experience is required.

More Info:

Practices will be held at the Wickliffe Pool at Coulby Park.
Choose at least three practices per week to swim in Saturday morning swim meets at local pools. Practices are offered Monday-Friday 8-9:45am or on M/W/Th from 5-6pm.

Register Today!

<https://www.gomotionapp.com/team/recsslwwd/page/register-here>

More Questions? Email Us: board@WickliffeWaterDevils.com

Wickliffe Public Library

Tween Programs for Grades 4-6

Tween Programs March 2026 for 4th-6th graders

To register for programs go to www.wickliffepl.org or call 440-944-6010.

International Food around the World Snacks

Wednesday, March 4

3:30-4:30 PM

We will make several different snacks from other cultures as we explore foods from around the world. **Registration required.**



Cardio Drumming with Mrs. Cull

Wednesday, March 11

3:30-4:30 PM

Get ready for lots of movement, music, and fun as you "workout" with sticks, yoga balls, and large buckets. Space is limited. **Registration required.**



Game Day!

Wednesday, March 18

3:30-4:30 PM

Tweens will play rounds of games that will include cups, dice, ping pong balls, and candy! A perfect afternoon activity for early Spring. **Registration required.**

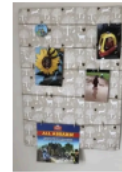


DIY Photo Display Boards

Wednesday, March 25

3:30-4:30 PM

Continuing the theme of recycling items, the Tweens will use fabric scraps and clothespins to make their own photo display boards. This will be light enough to hang in bedrooms or to be given as a gift along with favorite photos. **Registration required.**



Wickliffe Public Library

1713 Lincoln Road
Wickliffe, Ohio 44092 | (440) 944-6010
www.wickliffepl.org

We're Closed

March 16th-20th

Spring Break



Wickliffe City School District

Join us on our FaceBook Page!

