



COPLEY-FAIRLAWN CONNECT

MARCH 2026

DISTRICT PRIORITIES

1. Engage in exceptional teaching through data-driven, research-based practices that lead to remarkable learning.

2. Understand and enforce expectations for behavior to ensure safety and security for the school community.

3. Foster relationships with an awareness that all people have different backgrounds, experiences, and needs.

4. Engage in transparent, frequent, and consistent communication with all stakeholders.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Aimee Kirsch, Superintendent



Artificial Intelligence in Our Schools: Tools for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

As technology continues to shape our world, Copley-Fairlawn City Schools is being intentional about how we use these tools to prepare students for the future. This year, we are focusing on how artificial intelligence (AI) can responsibly support teaching, learning, and critical thinking.

To be clear: AI is not a crutch. We view it as a resource that helps students ask better questions, explore new perspectives, and solve complex problems. When used appropriately, AI can enhance creativity and higher-level thinking rather than replace them.

Student safety and ethical use are at the heart of this work. Our teachers are engaging in ongoing professional learning to deepen their understanding of how AI tools work, how to leverage their capabilities responsibly, and how to design assignments that support appropriate, teacher-facilitated use of AI. Our goal is to develop future-ready thinkers who safely use technology to deepen learning and expression.

We invite you to learn more about our upcoming AI Literacy Week (March 23–27), which will culminate in a district-wide AI learning experience on March 27. During this event, students across grade levels will showcase their creativity, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking.

Thank you for your partnership, your support, and the many ways you help make Copley-Fairlawn a place where every student can truly Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow.

Aimee

Aimee Kirsch, Superintendent
Copley-Fairlawn City Schools

Important Kindergarten Update

Are you planning to enroll a child in kindergarten for the 2026–2027 school year? Please be aware of a recent change in Ohio law regarding kindergarten eligibility.

Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, children must be five years old on or before the first day of school to enroll in kindergarten. For Copley-Fairlawn City Schools, the first day of school is August 19, 2026.

This change may impact some families as they plan for the upcoming school year. Kindergarten registration is now open, and we encourage families with eligible children to begin the process as soon as possible. Registration information is available at copley-fairlawn.org/registration



CONNECT WITH US!

COPLEY-FAIRLAWN.ORG

District Priority in Action:

Exceptional Teaching and Learning

A long-term vision for Copley-Fairlawn City Schools is to embed AI seamlessly across content areas. Rather than teaching AI as a standalone topic, we aim for it to become a natural support that encourages deeper thinking, problem-solving, and creativity for all students.

Across the district, teachers continue to engage in data-driven, research-based practices that strengthen instruction and promote deep, meaningful learning. Professional learning this year has focused on personalizing instruction, using data to inform teaching decisions, and integrating tools that support the diverse needs of all learners.

As part of this work, teachers are gaining hands-on experience with educational AI tools such as MagicSchool. These tools support efficiency while also helping educators design more rigorous, differentiated, and engaging learning experiences. Throughout the year, staff participated in Tech Tuesday activities. These short, practical learning opportunities focused on real classroom applications, AI safety, and the importance of human oversight when using AI-generated content.

This learning extends beyond the school year. During summer professional development, educators explored how AI can be paired with Depth of Knowledge (DOK) frameworks to elevate instructional rigor and student engagement. Additionally, a cohort of district leaders has partnered with aiEDU, a nationally-recognized organization, to earn certification that ensures our approach to AI remains grounded in research and best practices.



By embracing research-backed innovation and emerging technology, our teachers are better equipped to personalize instruction and develop learning opportunities that support all learners.

Join Us for AI Literacy Week: March 23-27

Copley-Fairlawn City Schools is excited to host AI Literacy Week beginning March 23, a district-wide initiative that will help build understanding and responsible use of artificial intelligence in our classrooms.

Throughout the week, students and staff will engage in age-appropriate learning experiences focused on understanding how AI works, using it as a supportive tool rather than a shortcut, and thinking critically about the information it provides. Topics will include digital citizenship, data awareness, and the importance of checking AI-generated content for accuracy.

The week will culminate in a district-wide AI learning experience in honor of National AI Literacy Day on March 27. Students across grade levels will reflect on their learning and showcase creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Students in grades 5-12 will also engage in discussions about ethical AI use and the importance of authenticity.

We look forward to celebrating the thoughtful and innovative learning happening across our schools.



LEARNING *Today,*
LEADING *Tomorrow*

Community Connection: *Partnering with Families*

Parents and families are vital partners as we navigate new technologies together. To help bridge the gap between the classroom and the living room, we invite you to engage with our AI literacy work at home:

- **Join the Conversation:** During AI Literacy Week (March 23–27), follow us on social media for daily discussion prompts designed to spark meaningful conversations about responsible AI use and digital safety.
- **Explore Together:** Ask your child what they are learning about AI and how it can be used as a tool for brainstorming or problem-solving.
- **Reinforce Responsible Use:** Help us emphasize that while AI can be a helpful resource, it always requires human judgment and critical thinking.

By working together, we can ensure students harness this new technology to enhance their exploration of the world around them.

Resources for Parents

It's difficult to guide children's understanding of these new tools as we learn about them in real time. Below are some helpful resources to help families navigate this new reality.

Copley-Fairlawn AI Literacy Resources

Resources curated by our district, aligned with the work we're doing in AI, including guides, tools, and activities for families and students.

copley-fairlawn.org/Alliteracy

Aixponential – Parent & Educator Resources

Practical tools, conversation starters, activity guides, and tips for families to explore AI together. aixponential.org

Family AI Guide – Evolve AI Institute

Free downloadable guide with age-appropriate advice on understanding AI basics. evolveaiinstitute.com

Common Sense Education – AI Literacy Toolkit

Free family resources such as videos and games to support age-appropriate discussions about AI and digital citizenship. commonsense.org

Internet Matters – Parent Guide to AI Tools

Beginner-friendly guide explaining what AI is, how generative AI tools work, and how parents can support safe use in everyday life. internetmatters.org

Understanding AI – aiEDU Blog

A beginner-friendly explanation of AI, what it is, and how it works, from aiEDU, a company founded by a Copley High School alumnus.

aiedu.org/aiedu-blog/understanding-ai-what-is-ai

IMPORTANT DATES

March 9

NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day

March 13

Third Grading Period Ends

March 17

Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

March 23-27

AI Literacy Week

March 30-April 3

NO SCHOOL, Spring Break

April 6

NO SCHOOL, Conference Compensation Day

April 21

Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

May 4-8

Staff Appreciation Week

May 17

Commencement Congratulations, Class of 2026!

May 19

Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

May 25

NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day

May 28

Students' Last Day of School



LEARNING *Today,*
LEADING *Tomorrow*



Subscribe to
the District
Newsletter!

Copley-Fairlawn City Schools | 2026-2027 Calendar

- 17** Teacher First Day (Convocation)
- 18** Teacher Work Day
- 19** Students' First Day (Grades 1-12)
- 24** Kindergarten (A-L)
- 25** Kindergarten (M-Z)
- 26** All Kindergarten

AUGUST 2026

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				

SEPTEMBER 2026

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		

- 7** No School - Labor Day

OCTOBER 2026

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

- 9** No School - NEOEA Day
- 12** No School - Prof. Dev. Day
- 16** End of First Grading Period

NOVEMBER 2026

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*				

- 3** No School - Prof. Dev. Day
- 26-27** No School - Fall Break
- 30** No School - Conference Comp. Day

DECEMBER 2026

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*	

- 18** End of Second Grading Period
- 21-31** No School - Winter Break

JANUARY 2027

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** No School - Winter Break
- 4** No School - Teacher Work Day
- 18** No School - MLK Day

FEBRUARY 2027

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

- 15** No School - Presidents' Day

MARCH 2027

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*		

- 8** No School - Prof. Dev. Day
- 12** End of Third Grading Period
- 26** No School - Conf. Comp Day
- 29-31** No School - Spring Break

APRIL 2027

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

- 2** No School - Spring Break

MAY 2027

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

- TBD** Commencement
- 26** End of Fourth Grading Period (Students' Last Day)
- 27** Teachers' Last Day

1st Quarter 2nd Quarter

3rd Quarter 4th Quarter

Parent Conferences

10/1/2026 Elementary/Middle School/High School
 10/15/2026 Elementary/Middle School
 11/5/2026 Elementary/Middle School/High School
 2/4/2027 Elementary/Middle School/High School
 2/11/2027 High School

School Start Times

High School 7:25 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.
 Middle School 8:05 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.
 Primary 9:05 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

School Phone Numbers

Copley High School 330-664-4822
 CF Middle School 330-664-4875
 Arrowhead Primary 330-664-4885
 Fort Island Primary 330-664-4890
 Herberich Primary 330-664-4991
 Transportation 330-664-4820



Copley-Fairlawn City Schools

3797 Ridgewood Rd.
 Copley, OH 44321
 330-664-4800
copley-fairlawn.org