



WINTER 2026 ISSUE

# Buckeye Brief

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER OF THE  
BUCKEYE CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

## Superintendent's Update



Barbara Green  
Superintendent

### Dear Buckeye Central Community,

Across Buckeye Central, we are being intentional about how we unite, refresh and refine the learning experiences we provide for our students each day. This focus guides our work across classrooms, programs and activities districtwide.

A key part of this intentional work is our continued focus on neurowell practices, which support the emotional, social and physical well-being of both students and staff. Teachers have used professional development days — and even recent snow days — to collaborate, learn and plan for consistent routines and purposeful brain breaks across classrooms. These strategies help students refocus, regulate and engage more fully in learning while creating greater consistency across our buildings.

We are also committed to ensuring every student feels a strong sense of belonging at Buckeye Central. Whether in the classroom, through activities and clubs, on the stage or on the field, we strive to provide opportunities for all students to engage, connect and be celebrated as valued members of our school community.

Academically, we continue to emphasize critical thinking, creativity and collaboration through STEAM learning — science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. STEAM experiences encourage students to ask questions, solve problems, work together and apply creativity to real-world situations. These skills are essential as we prepare students not just for the next grade level, but for the future ahead.

This winter's weather has brought its share of challenges, and I am grateful for the patience, flexibility and support shown by our Buckeye Central community. Navigating delays, closings and schedule changes is never easy, and your understanding helps us keep student safety at the center of every decision.

As we approach state testing this spring, thank you for the support you provide at home. Ensuring students get enough sleep, eat a healthy breakfast and approach testing days with a positive mindset makes a meaningful difference.

The coming months will offer many opportunities to celebrate our students and their accomplishments, from spring sports and the spring musical to end-of-year festivities, awards ceremonies and graduation. I encourage families and community members to support our Bucks and Buckettes as they perform, compete and celebrate these important milestones.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Buckeye Central Local Schools. Together, we will continue to unite around our students, refresh our practices and refine our work — shaping Bright futures, Curious minds and Strong hearts.

Sincerely,

**Barbara Green**  
Superintendent

## Top Marks for BC Special Education

Buckeye Central Local Schools is proud to have received the highest possible 2025 Special Education Rating from The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and no actions are required for improvement. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff who make this a great school for all.



## Treasurer's Update



Nancy Ackerman,  
Treasurer

### Grant Funding Supports Student Transportation Safety

At Buckeye Central Local Schools, student safety is always a top priority, and we continually seek responsible ways to strengthen our programs while being mindful of taxpayer dollars. One way we do this is by actively pursuing grant opportunities to enhance safety and operations.

I am pleased to share that Buckeye Central recently applied for and was awarded \$10,394 through the Ohio School Bus Safety Grant Program. This state-funded grant is designed to help school districts invest in safety upgrades for student transportation.

These funds will be used to purchase illuminated stop arms and fully illuminated "School Bus" signs for district buses. These enhancements increase visibility for motorists, particularly during early morning and late afternoon routes, and serve as an important reminder to drivers to stop when students are loading and unloading.

By securing grant funding for these improvements, the district can offset equipment costs and preserve local tax dollars while making meaningful investments in safety.

We appreciate the continued support of our Buckeye Central community and remain dedicated to finding innovative and efficient ways to support our students, staff and families.

If you ever have questions about district finances or funding initiatives, please feel free to reach out.

**Nancy Ackerman**  
Treasurer

## The AI Future at Buckeye Central

Preparing our students for a post-AI workforce is non-negotiable at Buckeye Central. We're committed to empowering our teachers with tools that enhance their curriculum in order to provide the best possible outcome for the next generation. As of late January, 28 staff members have earned credentials in AI for education, significantly increasing district-wide awareness and expertise. Following this training, specialized online courses are now available for both staff and students, with plans to integrate student-focused AI learning directly into the classroom.

Our progress continued in February during a half-day collaborative experience where staff members led peer-to-peer sessions. Topics ranged from using AI as a critical thinking partner and co-pilot to specialized applications in special education and grading. Sessions also featured innovative tools like Google NotebookLM, Gemini and SchoolAI to streamline tasks and boost engagement.

Furthering our commitment to responsible technology use, Buckeye Central has joined the Ohio Digital Wellness Alliance. In doing so, we pledge to collaborate with other districts to promote digital safety, cybersecurity and healthy social interactions.



Using AI, staff created superhero versions of themselves.

## Open Enrollment for 2026-2027 School Year

Open Enrollment at Buckeye Central Local Schools begins March 1 and runs through April 30, 2026 for the upcoming school year.

Families interested in applying can find the application on our website. Simply visit the District tab and select District Forms to access the Open Enrollment paperwork.

## BUCKEYE CENTRAL SCHOOLS...



**BRIGHT FUTURES**



**CURIOUS MINDS**



**STRONG HEARTS**



BUCKEYE CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

As part of our Unite. Refresh. Refine. efforts, we have updated the district's mission to more clearly reflect the values that guide our work with students and our vision for their future. This refreshed mission highlights who we are and what we strive to nurture in every child. Bright futures, curious mind and strong hearts are evident at Buckeye Central Schools as students across all grade levels engage in hands-on projects that bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world application. By turning lessons into interactive experiences, our educators are fostering a culture of curiosity and deep engagement.

This approach brings bright smiles to our preschool and elementary halls, where the youngest Bucks and Buckettes lead the way. For example, our preschoolers taught Board of Education members how to build snowmen and our second graders transformed their classroom into a museum of extinct animals. When students take ownership of their learning, they develop confidence, independence and are better prepared for the future.

In middle and high school, we've seen first-hand how students' curiosity evolves into advanced problem-solving and cultural immersion when provided with a safe, encouraging learning environment. Our seventh graders recently braved the winter weather to test physics through sled designs, turning a snowy day into a laboratory for friction and force. Meanwhile, high schoolers are blending technical skill with global awareness while mastering complex digital composition in art and hosting a tri-district Spanish fiesta. These moments of well-rounded collaboration and engagement prove that when students are truly engaged, their potential is limitless.

## Buckeye Central Priority Framework

Buckeye Central has a **NeuroWell culture** that promotes greater happiness, health and success for students and staff.



Academic and social behavior is the product of biology and context



NeuroWell culture is safe, supportive, and proactive



Everyone belongs, engages, and celebrates

## Our job is to prepare students to be Ready for THEIR Futures

- ✓ **Learn** how to learn
- ✓ **Learn** what they love
- ✓ **Learn** to manage stress and find joy
- ✓ **Learn** to work on teams
- ✓ **Learn** to have positive relationships
- ✓ **Learn** to have a productive struggle
- ✓ **Learn** the thinking and social skills they need for a post-AI world

# FALL ATHLETIC HONORS

**Maren McDougal**  
All-Ohio  
Volleyball



## 2025 Season Honors

- Third Team All-Ohio
- District 6 Player of the Year
- First Team District 6
- N10 Co-Player of the Year
- First Team N10
- Crawford County Volleyball Player of the Year
- First Team Crawford County

## Record Setter

- 2,708 Career Assists
- N10 Career Assist Record



Congratulations to the following **football** players who earned special recognitions for their performance and dedication this season:

- **Alec Phillips:** 2nd Team All-League, Honorable Mention All-District
- **Lance Cole:** Honorable Mention All-League, Honorable Mention All-District
- **Dylan Heydinger:** Honorable Mention All-League, Honorable Mention All-District
- **Hunter Caudill:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Lane Caudill:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Austin Bogner:** Honorable Mention All-District
- **Jack Phillips:** Honorable Mention All-Ohio, 2nd Team All-District, 2nd Team All-League Quarterback Honors



# ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2026

Buckeye Central celebrated six decades of excellence by inducting the **Buckeye Central Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026** in January. Inductees included the undefeated 1981 football team alongside individual standouts Teresa Riedel Casperson (girls' sports pioneer), Scott McDougal (track and field record-setter), Sam Shafer (four-time All-Ohio baseball star), Grant Loy (Division I quarterback) and Jenna Karl (volleyball and basketball powerhouse).



1981 football team and cheerleaders.

Source: Crawford County Now  
Photographer: Gorman Garland



L-R: Grant Loy, Sam Shafer, Scott McDougal, Teri Riedel Casperson and Jenna Karl

## DESIGN. CODE. COMPETE.



Buckeye Central's Robotics Club powered its way to a first-place victory at the December competition held at Cedar Point Sports Force Park!



The Club continued its success at the Sandusky Bay Robotics League, competing against 35 teams from Crawford, Erie, Huron and Lorain counties.

# CLASSROOM LEARNING IN FOCUS

## Preschool

The tables were turned at the January Board meeting, when eight preschool students came with playdough, glitter snow and a song about how to build a snowman to guide our board members in a hands-on learning activity.



Students sang their hearts out at the annual Christmas program in December, celebrating afterward with Christmas cookies and a Play-Doh kit and book, crafted by the preschool staff.

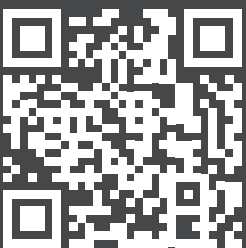


We always see sunlight peer through the window, so why not create our own light in the classroom? These little learners explored light with colors, mirrors, shapes, flashlights and tea lights while building vocabulary and growing their curiosity.



## Elementary School

Learning is far from extinct in our second grade classrooms! Students put on their detective skills and discovered all they could about ancient animal habitats and fossils, combining reading, science, social studies, math, research and writing to create an ancient extinct animal museum.



Already preparing for band next year, fourth grade students have been learning how to play the recorder. In December, they learned how to play Jingle Bells, the perfect mix of focus, fun and festive energy! **Scan the QR code to watch a video of their performance!**



# CLASSROOM LEARNING IN FOCUS

## Middle School



Mrs. Lane's students fostered curiosity, creativity and connection in December, researching countries, sharing what they learned through writing and presentations and creating ornament trees filled with meaningful details.



Go farther, go faster: that's the goal of these seventh grade physics students who experimented in the snow while designing sleds, choosing materials, setting race criteria, testing how to reduce friction and figuring out how much force it takes to get their contraption moving.



Our sixth graders have what it takes when science turns into a challenge, using their Chromebooks to explore matter through collaboration, communication and a little healthy competition.

## High School

Forty-five Bucks and Buckettes joined forces with Seneca East and Willard students for a high-energy Spanish fiesta filled with salsa dancing, tongue twister showdowns and a well-earned Chipotle lunch.



Art students got creative with Photoshop to build meaning through layered images, experimenting with blending modes, masking and composition to create original double and triple exposure pieces that reflect their own ideas and themes.



Congratulations to Buckeye Central Seniors Angela Figueroa and Alex Moyer who were selected as State Americanism Test Champions, a recognition earned by only a handful of students across Ohio. This award includes a trip to the Ohio Statehouse and a week in Washington, D.C.



## Buckeye Central Local School District

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## LOOKING AHEAD

### Summer 2026 Programming at Buckeye Central

At Buckeye Central Local Schools, we believe learning doesn't stop when the school year ends. Our summer programming is designed to nurture, inspire and empower students through hands-on experiences that build confidence and strengthen skills.

This year, we are refining our summer offerings with a focused emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) and targeted intervention opportunities. While families may notice fewer total camps, each experience is intentionally designed to provide deeper, connected learning that supports student growth.

Our teachers are currently finalizing additional summer opportunities. By April 1, families can expect an email and flyer outlining all available options. Registration for most summer camps will be due April 30.

We are proud to invest in meaningful summer learning experiences that help our students continue building skills, exploring interests and preparing for the year ahead.

## Spring State Testing

-  **March 10**  
ACT (All High School Juniors)
-  **April 14-15**  
Grade 3-8 English Language Arts  
English 2 End of Course Exam
-  **April 21-April 22**  
Grade 3-8 Math Tests  
Algebra End-of-Course Exam  
Geometry End-of-Course Exam
-  **April 28-29**  
Grade 5 Science Test  
Grade 8 Science Test  
Biology End-of-Course Exam
-  **April 23**  
American History End-of-Course Exam

To support your student's testing success from home, please help them get a good night's sleep the night before testing, encourage them to eat a healthy breakfast and be positive about this testing opportunity.

**Scan the QR code** for resources to help your student practice the tests at home.

