

BUCKEYE BULLETIN

SPRING 2026

WE
WANT
TO
ACHIEVE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Buckeye Local Schools Families,

Spring is a busy and exciting time at Buckeye Local Schools, filled with opportunities for our students to shine. From classroom achievements to performances, athletic events, and community projects, this season highlights the energy, dedication, and pride of our students and staff. We hope you take a moment to explore this newsletter and see the progress happening throughout our district.

We have entered an exciting phase of our long-term facilities plan. In March, GPD Group presented the Educational Visioning Summary for the new Buckeye High School, completing the educational visioning phase and incorporating input from students, staff, families, and community partners. This milestone brings us closer to shaping a high school that truly reflects our community.

Academically, our students continue to achieve at every level. Congratulations to Buckeye Intermediate and Buckeye Junior High for being named 2026 Governor's Science of Reading Champions, honoring their dedication to evidence-based literacy instruction. I'm also excited to share that through the Buckeye High School and Tri-C Associates Academy partnership, rising sophomores and juniors will have the opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts degree while still in high school.



Athletics remain a source of pride, with student-athletes earning championships, making historic accomplishments, and competing at the state level. We celebrate the hard work of all our Bucks and look forward to carrying this momentum into the spring season.

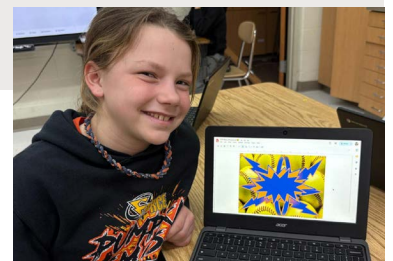
Thank you for your continued support as we celebrate achievements and look ahead to the many opportunities this spring brings!

Together, we Believe. Empower. Achieve.

Go Bucks!

Jeffrey M. Stanton
Superintendent

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE



Snapshots from our schools!

IMPORTANT DATES

May 13	Early Release	May 28	Students' Last Day of School
May 15	HS Graduation	May 28	Classified Last Day of School
May 21	Last Day of Preschool	May 28	End of Grading Period
May 25	Memorial Day (No School)		

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FINANCE

As the Treasurer of the Buckeye Local School District, I'm writing to you not only in my professional role, but also as a parent and a taxpayer. Like many of you, I feel the impact of rising property taxes. At the same time, property taxes support many of the services we rely on every day throughout Buckeye and Medina County. Because of that, I'd like to share some context about how school funding in Ohio has changed and what it means for our community.

Over time, as state funding has decreased, the responsibility for supporting public education has increasingly shifted to local communities. Long-term property tax relief will likely require the state of Ohio to play a larger role in funding public education. By working together with state leaders, communities, and educators, we can pursue solutions that strengthen our schools while also easing the burden on homeowners.

I encourage our community members to stay engaged, ask questions, and continue participating in these important conversations. Thank you for your continued support of Buckeye Local Schools and for being part of a community that values education and opportunity for every child.

Mark Donnelly
Treasurer

HOW SCHOOL FUNDING IN OHIO HAS CHANGED

In 2002, Ohio ranked 35th in the nation for state funding of K-12 education. By 2023, that ranking had dropped to 45th.



In 1999, residential and agricultural property owners paid about 52% of property taxes, while businesses paid about 48%. By 2023, residential and agricultural taxes accounted for 67.5% of the total.



During the same time, the tax burden on state-only taxpayers has decreased, placing Ohio 42nd nationally.

TRANSPORTATION



NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS - \$22.49/HOUR

Buckeye Local Schools is now hiring bus drivers at a new rate of \$22.49/hour. If you enjoy working with students and want to make a positive impact in our community, we'd love to have you on our team.

Apply today!



BIG NEWS FOR STUDENT SAFETY

Our school district is proud to announce we have received the Ohio School Bus Safety Grant for \$45,412.00 to help equip our fleet with new exterior cameras and enhanced extended stop arms. These high-tech systems provide an essential layer of protection around our school buses by allowing us to monitor and capture footage of vehicles that illegally pass while the stop arms are deployed. By increasing visibility and holding motorists accountable, we are committed to making every stop as safe as possible for our students.



OPERATIONS

BUCKEYE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Please join Buckeye students, staff, families and community members for the annual Craig Bailey Memorial 5k Race and 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, May 9th, 2026, hosted by the Buckeye Education Foundation.

Location

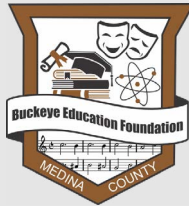
Buckeye Track and Soccer Complex

8:30 AM: Check In

9:30 AM: 5k Race and 1 Mile Fun Run

Learn more

beffoundation.org
BuckeyeBEF@gmail.com



Scan to register!



Buckeye Local School District has partnered with Tiffin Scenic Sound to complete safety upgrades to the performance stage at Buckeye High School. Improvements include a new safety railing and ladder on the mezzanine, as well as updated tracks and rigging. The main stage curtains will also be replaced this summer.

Two major roofing projects are also scheduled for summer 2026. Most of the Buckeye High School roof will be replaced by West Roofing Systems. In addition, the district will continue roof replacement work at the elementary building. After completing sections of the building's center core in 2023 and 2025, the entire intermediate wing will be replaced this summer, with the primary wing scheduled for replacement in 2027. The district has partnered with Revere Roofing for the 2026 and 2027 elementary projects.

John Justice

Director of Operations

CURRICULUM

Testing with Confidence: A Parent's Guide to April Exams

Our students are entering an important phase of the academic year with the start of the Ohio State Tests and High School End-of-Course (EOC) exams in April. These assessments give students the opportunity to demonstrate the academic growth they've made since the fall. For high school students, the EOC exams are also an important step toward meeting Ohio's graduation requirements.

Families play a key role in helping students approach testing with confidence. By maintaining strong routines and helping students arrive at school prepared and focused, parents can make a meaningful difference during this important month. We appreciate the partnership of our families as we support our students in doing their very best.

Bridget Elias

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

MEET MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR DAVE PESORDA!

Mr. Dave Pesorda has been named the district's new Maintenance Supervisor.

Previously serving as the district's Head Mechanic, Mr. Pesorda brings

a strong background in maintenance and operations to his new role. He will oversee the district's buildings and grounds, maintenance and custodial teams, and preventive maintenance programs.



TESTING TIPS FOR FAMILIES



Prioritize attendance.



Ensure a full night of sleep.



Start the day with a healthy breakfast.



Maintain a calm morning routine.



GLOW RUN FUNDRAISER

Thanks to the incredible support of our Buckeye Primary community, the MyBooster.com Glow Run fundraiser raised \$19,091 to support PBIS programs and student activities. Congratulations to the top three fundraisers in each grade who celebrated by silly-stringing Principal Rivera!



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Intermediate art students combined technology and art to explore graphic design concepts. Students learned how to create effective logos and visual messages using digital tools.

WINTER OLYMPICS

For two weeks in February, Buckeye Primary School brought the Winter Olympics to life! Students explored countries from around the world, celebrated real Olympic achievements, participated in movement stations, and took part in our first-ever Glow Run fundraiser.



COSMIC BOWLING

Physical education teachers transformed a typical bowling lesson into a cosmic experience, complete with lights and music. Students practiced the fundamentals of bowling and learned to keep score in an exciting, engaging atmosphere.

SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Aubree Lewis, this year's Buckeye Intermediate School Spelling Bee Champion! After several challenging rounds featuring 16 competitors, Aubree emerged as the champion. We wish her the best of luck as she moves on to represent Buckeye Intermediate in the county-wide Spelling Bee.



KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT 2026-2027

Pursuant to Ohio House Bill 114, all Ohio school districts are required to follow uniform age requirements for kindergarten eligibility.

Children must be 5 by the district's first day of kindergarten instruction: **August 26, 2026.**

Kindergarten registration and screening sign-ups will open on **March 2, 2026.**

More information regarding the change in eligibility can be found at: www.buckeyeschools.org/registration

JUNIOR HIGH *Highlights*

HOPE SQUAD

Buckeye Junior High Hope Squad members spread positivity by serving hot chocolate during lunch. Each cup featured a positive affirmation. This activity supported Hope Squad's mission to build connections, encourage kindness, and promote student mental well-being.



PIXEL ART

Seventh grade advanced math students turned equations into creativity by designing pixel art. Using ratios and scaling, they transformed math concepts into detailed drawings and reflected on their work through self-evaluations.

WINTER DANCE

More than 100 Buckeye Junior High students enjoyed an evening of music, games, pizza, and fun with friends at the PTO Winter Dance. Thank you to the PTO, parents, and families for your support, which helped make the night a memorable success.



REAL MONEY, REAL WORLD

Buckeye 8th-grade students participated in the Real Money, Real World financial literacy simulation, where they were assigned careers and salaries. They also budgeted for real-life expenses such as housing, transportation, and taxes. The hands-on activity helped students see how career choices, spending decisions, and unexpected costs affect personal finances.

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING DATES

April 14, 2026

April 23, 2026

Please contact the Primary Office to register:
330-722-8257 ext 4137

REGISTRATION FOR GRADES K-12 IS NOW OPEN!

Please visit our website www.buckeyeschools.org/studentregistration for instructions and more information.

May 1, 2026 - Deadline for existing open-enrolled families to reapply

June 1, 2026 - Deadline for new open enrollment applications

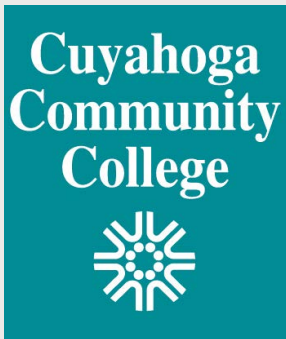
B HIGH SCHOOL *Highlights*

BLOOD CANCER UNITED

Buckeye High School has launched its first-ever Blood Cancer United team, a nonprofit organization working toward a world without blood cancer. Buckeye's team competed against other teams in the Cleveland area to raise as much money as possible for Blood Cancer patients and research. Student leaders Kate Shearer and Emma Bostic led their team of 12 to raise \$51,000, exceeding their \$35,000 goal and placing Buckeye in the top 10 of all participating schools.



ASSOCIATES ACADEMY



The Buckeye High School and Tri-C Associates Academy is a pathway that offers rising sophomores and juniors the opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts degree

while still in high school. Through exclusive access to in-person, online, and hybrid courses offered in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College, students will experience a rigorous college curriculum within the supportive environment of Buckeye High School. Designed intentionally for high-achieving high school learners, the program provides the personalized academic and developmental support necessary to excel in college-level work.

Students who are accepted into this pathway will receive priority enrollment in Tri-C partnership courses taught on the Buckeye campus, meet regularly with school counselors to ensure they remain on track for graduation, and benefit from dedicated time with Tri-C advisors to map out their college degree requirements. Additionally, all 10th and 11th grade Academy students will have built-in daily lab periods to complete online coursework, engage in hybrid classes, and receive targeted support from the Associates Academy Team.



SUNDAY, APRIL 26

BUCKEYE HIGH SCHOOL

2nd Annual Car Show

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | AWARDS: 2:00 p.m.

Show car registration begins at 8:30 a.m. (No Earlier)

Buckeye High School is hosting its 2nd Annual Car Show! All proceeds benefit our high school dance fund and our students! We have more room than last year and are ready to see what you've got! If it has a motor, we want to see it: cars, trucks, motorcycles, and even tractors!

BUCKEYE HIGH SCHOOL

3084 Columbia Road, Medina Oh 44256

All cars use the south entrance by the flags off Columbia Road.

\$15 ENTRY PER CAR

CATEGORIES

- Best Classic (year-99)
- Best Modern (2000-year)
- Best Truck
- Best Tractor
- Best Motorcycle
- People's Choice Award

Each class will have a runner-up

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- Food Trucks
- Coffee Truck
- Raffle Baskets
- 50/50
- Touch a Truck
- DJ

ATHLETIC *Highlights*

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE

Coming off a very successful fall season, our winter teams continued that momentum with several championships, historic accomplishments, and numerous student-athletes advancing to the state level. I am proud of the achievements of our student-athletes and coaches this winter and look forward to watching our Bucks build on that success this spring.

Go Bucks!

John Myers
Athletic Director

GO BUCKS!



BOWLING

Our girls' bowling team had a historic year. They finished the season as conference and sectional champions, marking the program's first sectional title in school history. Individually, Aubrey Reuter won the district championship and qualified for the state tournament, becoming the first district champion and first state qualifier in Buckeye bowling history.



GYMNASTICS

The gymnastics team had a great season, finishing as conference champions. Nevaeh Sejka qualified for the OHSAA State Gymnastics Tournament and placed 13th in the All-Around out of 90 competitors statewide.

INDOOR TRACK

Buckeye student-athletes were well represented at the Indoor Track State Championships. Ellen Steppenbacker and Brady Salazar qualified as individual competitors, and the 4x800 meter relay team of Brady Salazar, Dimitri Pshonyak, Nolan Rieth, and Gavin Waibel also earned a spot at the state meet. Ellen and Brady further qualified for the New Balance Indoor Track National Championship, giving them the opportunity to compete on the national stage.



BASKETBALL

Turner Dolata was named the Conference Player of the Year.



WRESTLING

Our wrestling team captured the conference championship this season and sent four wrestlers to the OHSAA State Tournament: Logan Letner, Blake Bartos, Collin Bartos, and Brody Zoul.



Buckeye Local School District
 3044 Columbia Rd.
 Medina OH 44256

We need 
 your input!

Building Design Survey
Open Through April 15

Buckeye Local Schools is seeking community input as we begin the schematic design phase for the new high school. Take a moment to complete the survey, open through April 15, to share your thoughts on the building's exterior design.



STAY CONNECTED!



NEW!
 buckeye_local_schools



www.buckeyeschools.org



BuckeyeSchools



Buckeye Local Schools



BuckeyeLocalSchools

EDUCATIONAL VISIONING GUIDES HIGH SCHOOL DESIGN

Buckeye Local Schools continues to make progress on its long-term facilities plan, with the vision for the future Buckeye High School beginning to take shape.

At the March Board of Education meeting, the district's architectural partner, GPD Group, presented an Educational Visioning Summary, marking the completion of the educational visioning phase for the new high school building project.

The visioning process focused on identifying the priorities, learning environments, and program needs that will guide the design of the new Buckeye High School. Through facilitated workshops and discussions, students, staff, and community members explored how the building can best support modern learning, collaboration, career pathways, and student engagement.

The result is a shared vision that will help guide the next phase of the project as architects begin translating these ideas into the building's design.

Community members interested in learning more about the process can view a video overview of the educational visioning work, along with the full presentation and report summarizing the findings. These resources are available on the district website under the Visioning tab on the Facilities Planning page.

