



APRIL 2025

Check us out at:  
[www.ekschools.org](http://www.ekschools.org) and Facebook

# PURPLE PRIDE

*Published to bring school news to the residents of East Knox Local School District*

## *From the Superintendent*

Dear East Knox Students, Families, Staff, and Community Members,

As we approach the end of the school year, our staff is already preparing for a strong start to 2026–2027. Students are beginning to think about next year’s opportunities, and our teams across the district are working hard to ensure that East Knox continues to provide high-quality learning experiences for every student.

East Knox Local Schools is expanding and updating our elementary playground to create a fun, inclusive, and engaging space for students and the community. A committee of parents, staff, and community members has been working closely with our architect to design a playground that supports:

- ◆ **Creative and imaginative play**
- ◆ **Social interaction and collaboration**
- ◆ **Physical activity for Grades K–6**
- ◆ **Safe, durable, and accessible features**
- ◆ **Outdoor learning opportunities**

This project reflects our shared commitment to giving East Knox students a space where they can grow, explore, and build friendships every day.

This year, we successfully implemented the Wonders curriculum at the elementary level, and our teachers have done an outstanding job bringing these resources to life. With that work continuing, we are moving forward with several additional curriculum reviews at the Junior/Senior High School.

*continued on next page...*

### **Elementary (K-6 grades)**

23081 Coshocton Road  
Howard OH 43028  
Phone: 740-599-7000

Mrs. Melissa Moreland, Principal  
Mr. David Coleman, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Amanda Wilson, Building Secretary, X3002  
Mrs. Krista Reese, Secretary X3003

### **Jr./Sr. High School (7-12 grades)**

23227 Coshocton Road  
Howard OH 43028  
Phone: 740-599-7000

Mrs. Shannon Sprang, Principal  
Mr. Tyler Williams, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Bailey Sprague, Athletic Director  
Mrs. Fawnda Stahl, Building Secretary, x2002  
Mrs. Brianna Hickman, Attendance/A.D./  
Communications Secretary, x2003  
Ms. Julia Kelly, Guidance Counselor, x2008  
Mrs. Alicia Simmons, Guidance Secretary, x2004

Dr. Ben Snedeker, Director of Student Services/  
Spec. Ed. Coord., x1008  
Ms. Kathleen Herrmann, Student Services/Spec.  
Ed. Secretary x1088

School District Nurses x2006 or x3006

Transportation Supervisor  
Ms. Angela Wells, x1016

### **East Knox Board Office**

23201 Coshocton Road  
Howard, Ohio 43028  
740-599-7000

Mr. Richard Baird, Superintendent  
Mrs. Kim Grindle Superintendent’s Secretary,  
x1002  
Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, CPA, Treasurer  
Mrs. Tracy Beckett, Assist. Treasurer

#### **East Knox Board Members**

**Lindsay Bush-President**  
**Randy Reese-Vice President**  
**Josh Beltz**  
**Alan Huffman**  
**Melissa Tomlinson**



**Safer Ohio**  
School Tip Line

**844.723.3764**

Report concerns for student safety

<https://app.saferohioschooltipline.com/>

...continued from front page.

We are hosting Community Curriculum Review sessions at our next two Board of Education meetings. These sessions will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the East Knox Elementary Cafeteria, with the Board meetings beginning at 6:00 p.m. Community members may attend, view sample materials, and learn more about the instructional resources. We will also have samples of resources used throughout the district at all grade levels and subject areas.

At the April 9th Board of Education meeting, we will present the following materials:

- ◆ **7th & 8th Grade Social Studies** (with samples available)
- ◆ **Biology** (2019 and 2027 editions) (with samples available)
- ◆ **Functional Academics** (previously adopted, with samples displayed)

At the May 14th Board meeting, we will bring forward:

- ◆ **7th & 8th Grade Science** (with samples)
- ◆ **ELA for grades 7–12** (with samples)

These reviews reflect our ongoing commitment to ensuring that our curriculum remains aligned to standards, research-based, and supportive of student success.

We are also working to fill several positions for next school year, including a **2nd grade teacher, 5th grade teacher, 6th grade teacher, a high school teacher, and multiple Intervention Specialist positions**. As always, we are committed to hiring individuals who share our values and support our mission.

At the Junior/Senior High School, we are excited to continue expanding programs that align with student interests, aptitudes, and future pathways:

- ◆ **Consumer Math** – This course will meet the senior math requirement.
- ◆ **CCP U.S. History** – Students will have the opportunity to earn college credit while remaining on campus.
- ◆ **Driver's Education** – We are currently making final plans with our vendor.

...continued on next column.

...continued from previous column.

- ◆ **Engineering** – Our Engineering and Robotics program continues to grow and remains a key part of our long-term pathway development.
- ◆ **Visual Arts and Design** – A new career pathway that includes digital design and social media communications.
- ◆ **Careers and Technology (7th & 8th Grade)** – These courses will continue for our students, with upgraded curriculum and strong positive feedback from this year's implementation.
- ◆ **CPR/First Aid Certification** – While all students receive the state-required exposure, they will now have the opportunity to become fully certified.
- ◆ **Social Studies Electives** – Our department continues to expand elective offerings to give students more choices and relevance.
- ◆ **FFA/Ag and Spanish I for 8th Grade** – Both will be available next year, giving students early access to high-interest pathways.
- ◆ **FCS Life Skills** – This course will now include a dedicated Life Skills component to support student readiness for adulthood.

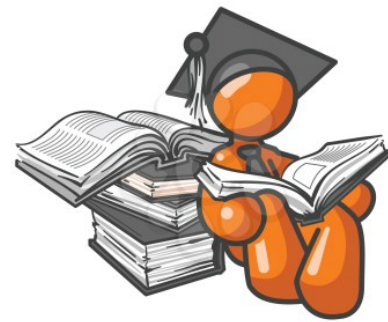
Our Strategic Planning Process, facilitated by the Ohio School Boards Association, continues to move forward with strong participation from staff, families, community members, and local businesses. Themes such as Community, Opportunity, Communication, Safety, and Lifelong Learning continue to shape the mission, vision, and core beliefs that will guide East Knox in the years ahead.

East Knox is a special place, and we are grateful for the continued support of our families and community partners. Your engagement strengthens our schools and helps us provide the best possible experience for our students.

Sincerely,

*Richard J. Baird*, Superintendent

## New Courses & Opportunities for 7-12 Students for the 2026–2027 School Year



East Knox is excited to expand course opportunities and provide students with more career-focused and college-ready pathways beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

### New STEM Courses (Project Lead The Way – PLTW)

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nationally recognized STEM program that provides hands-on, real-world learning experiences and helps students explore careers in engineering, manufacturing, and technology.

- *Automation & Robotics (Grades 7–8)*

Hands-on learning focused on coding, robotics, problem solving, and emerging technology.

- *Engineering Essentials (Grades 9–10)*

Students will explore engineering design, teamwork, and real-world problem solving while building technical and critical thinking skills.

### Graphic Design & Digital Media (Pending Student Interest)

- *Graphic Arts & Visual Design*

Students will learn digital design, branding, typography, illustration, and multimedia creation using industry-relevant tools and software. Students will have the opportunity to earn Adobe and Google certifications that support college and career pathways in graphic design, marketing, and digital media.

### High School Credit Opportunities for 8th Grade

- *Spanish I*
- *Agriculture I*
- *Art I*

This allows students to get a head start on their high school coursework.

### New High School Course Offering

- *First Aid & CPR*

Available to all students as a semester course focused on life-saving and real-world skills.

### College Credit Plus (CCP) Opportunities

- *CCP U.S. History (through COTC) offered at East Knox*
- *CCP English Composition and College Algebra, offered at Danville High School in partnership with East Knox*



## NHS—2025-2026 Inductees



East Knox High School and advisor Meg Molador welcomed new 2025-2026 members into their chapter of the National Honor Society on Sunday, March 15, 2026

Josslyn Campos, Aleix Neighbarger, Ryan Peck, Madelyn Mezie, Zeke Proudfoot, Wyatt McDowell, Evy Williams, Malena Strebby, Ava Page, Danny Adams, Caden Ridenour, Grace Shank, Isabelle Bostic, Ariel Atkinson, Quenten Rose, Rylan Winkler, Imogen Winkler, Jacob Blakely, Ava Faucett, Gavin Kidwell, Cloe Tucker, Addison Mostaka



Calling all Juniors & Seniors — this night is for you!

# LUCKY

*in love*

## EKHS PROM 2026

---

**APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> • 7:00PM to 10:00PM**  
 Promenade Starts at 7:00PM  
 The Barn at Sunset Valley | 13159 McElroy Rd, Danville

**TICKETS ARE \$25 EACH**  
 Tickets go on sale April 20th @ EKHS  
 KCCC sales to be announced.

### 2026 Prom: Lucky in Love

East Knox High School is excited to announce that the 2026 Prom theme is “Lucky in Love.” This year’s prom will take place on April 25 from 7:00–10:00 p.m. at The Barn at Sunset Valley, located at 13159 McElroy Rd, Danville, Ohio 43014. The evening will begin with Promenade at 7:00 p.m., giving families and friends a chance to see students dressed for this special night before the celebration officially begins.

Tickets will be on sale for \$25, and each ticket includes a meal from the on-site food truck. Students will be able to choose from a hamburger, cheeseburger, or hot dog, along with fries and a drink. Tickets will go on sale beginning Monday, April 20 at EKHS, and will also be available to KCCC students on a date to be announced.

Students who plan to bring a guest from another school must pick up and complete a guest form from the high school office prior to purchasing tickets. We look forward to a fun, safe, and memorable evening celebrating our students as it’s sure to be a night where everyone feels Lucky in Love!

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a child or know of a child within our district who will be **five years old on or before August 13, 2026**, please notify the elementary school. Registration packets will be sent to the parent or guardian upon completion of the following form. The scheduled time for your child’s screening will be mailed to you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Child’s name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Child’s date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian email address \_\_\_\_\_



Return this completed form by either mail: 23081 Coshocton Rd, Howard, Ohio 43028, fax: 740-599-6397 OR email: [awilson@ekschools.org](mailto:awilson@ekschools.org)

# Elementary Important Dates: Mark Your Calendars

- Monday, April 6, 2026: Classes Resume
  - Friday, April 17, 2026: Father Daughter Dance Preschool-6th grade (Preschool-2nd grade: 5:30-7:00; grades 3-6 from 7:15-8:45)
  - Thursday, April 30, 2026: Annual K-6 Art Show: 5:30-7:30
  - Thursday, April 30, 2026: Kindergarten Screening
  - Friday, May 1, 2026: Kindergarten Screening
  - Tuesday, May 5, 2026: Planetarium Visit: (Sponsored by the PTO)
  - Thursday, May 7, 2026: Preschool Graduation in the elementary gymnasium
  - Monday, May 11, 2026: K-3 Fun Day and Inflatables
  - Tuesday, May 12, 2026: Rain Date for K-3 Fun Day
  - Wednesday, May 13, 2026: 4-6 Fun Day and Inflatables
  - Thursday, May 14, 2026: Rain date 4-6 Fun Day
  - Monday, May 18, 2026: May Day for grades 5 and 6
  - Tuesday, May 19, 2026: Rain date for May Day grades 5 and 6
  - Wednesday, May 20, 2026: Kindergarten Graduation: 9:30 in the elementary gymnasium
  - Thursday, May 21, 2026: Sixth Grade Graduation: 9:30 in the elementary gymnasium
  - Thursday, May 21, 2026: Last Day for Students
- ◆ Spring Ohio State Assessments for grades 3-6 (Please make sure students are present and on time for these assessments.)
    - ◆ Tuesday, April 14, 2026: ELA State Assessment Part 1 Grades 3-6
    - ◆ Wednesday, April 15, 2026: ELA State Assessment Part 2 Grades 3-6
    - ◆ Tuesday, April 21, 2026: Math State Assessment Part 1 Grades 3-6
    - ◆ Wednesday, April 22, 2026: Math State Assessment Part 2 Grades 3-6
    - ◆ Tuesday, April 28, 2026: Science State Assessment Part 1 Grades 5
    - ◆ Wednesday, April 29, 2026: Science State Assessment Part 2 Grades 5
  - ◆ Tentative Summer School Schedule for children K-5 (This year's current grade)
    - ◆ Monday-Thursday, June 1, 2026-June 4, 2026: 9:00-11:30
    - ◆ Monday-Thursday, June 8, 2026-June 11, 2026: 9:00-11:30
    - ◆ Monday-Thursday, June 15, 2026-June 18, 2026: 9:00-11:30

Summer ELA testing for those students who did not pass the fall or spring Ohio state assessments will take place on Monday, June 22, 2026 for part 1 and Tuesday, June 23, 2026 for part 2 beginning at 9:00.

Jumpstart for incoming kindergarten students for the 2026-2027 school year will be on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 from 9:00-2:00 where lunch will be provided. (This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to meet their kindergarten teacher and to experience what a day in kindergarten will be like without any other children in the building.)



## Bulldog Band of Pride

Our BULLDOG BAND OF PRIDE is pleased to announce that several members of our Band were recently selected as members of the OHIO MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION DISTRICT 10 HONOR BANDS. These students rehearsed and performed with students selected from Schools from all over Central Ohio. They performed an amazing final Concert on Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Selected for the OMEA MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR BAND were:

**Callie May**-Clarinet

**Brantley Carter**-Trumpet

**Zach Adams**-Tuba

Selected for the OMEA HIGH SCHOOL HONOR BAND were:

**James Keith**-9<sup>th</sup> Grade -Alto Sax

**Danny Adams**-12<sup>th</sup> Grade -French Horn

**Hayden Priest**-11<sup>th</sup> Grade Clarinet-3<sup>rd</sup> Time Selection-3 Different years

Congratulations to these talented students.

Mr. Brian W. Dodd, Band Director



# Purple Pride

*Published to bring school news to the residents of East Knox Local School District*

East Knox Local School District  
23201 Coshocton Road  
Howard OH 43028  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #51  
MOUNT  
VERNON, OHIO  
43050

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

CAR/RT  
HOWARD POSTAL CUSTOMER  
HOWARD, OH 43028

## East Knox Local School District

*“Choose a job you love, and you will never  
have to work a day in your life.”*

*~Unknown*

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**—This publication, a report to the residents of the East Knox Local School District, fulfills the requirements of section 3313.94 of the Ohio Revised Code. Suggestions or questions should be directed to the Board of Education Office, 23201 Coshocton Road, Howard, OH 43028.

<https://app.saferohioschooltipline.com/>



**Safer Ohio**  
School Tip Line

**844.723.3764**

Report concerns for student safety