



## The Blue Devil Newsletter



### From the Desk of Superintendent Joseph Siefke

A warm welcome to all as we begin another issue of the District Newsletter. Hard to believe we are past the halfway point of the school year already and Mother Nature has been pretty good to us regarding two-hour delays or cancellation of school. As always, you will receive calls from our automated system on days in which we have adjusted or with messages from the schools. If you have not been receiving or have had problems, please contact the school offices for assistance. As we begin a new calendar year we would like to recognize our Board of Education members and thank them for all they do in the District.



January is designated as School Board Recognition month in Ohio. The Lisbon Exempted Village School District is joining with other districts throughout the state to recognize the important contributions schoolboard members make to their communities. These people unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education. They represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making in education. Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our schoolboard members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our schools and students. The men and women serving the Lisbon School District and their years of service are:

T.K. Hiscox -12 years  
Charles Bell -04 years  
Jennifer Whitman -2.5 years  
Brittany Tyler -02 years  
Jim Tsilimos -02 years

If you should happen to see any of these folks, please take an opportunity to say thanks for all they do for the children of the district. Too often we forget about the important role that school board members play in assuring local control of our schools. Too often we are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all the details that

went into a given decision. Too often the efforts of school board members to improve our schools go unrecognized. So this month join me in thanking our school board for all they do to keep Lisbon Schools the “heart of the community.” The Lisbon BOE has been working very hard trying to educate the community on securing the financial future of the school district. I would personally like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication toward this endeavor. It is very apparent that the wants and needs of every Lisbon student both present and in the future was always at the forefront of their priority list. I am very proud of their efforts and grateful for their endless desire to see the students of Lisbon be the educational leaders of our community and society.

Lastly, our goal at Lisbon Exempted Village Schools is not only provide the highest quality educational foundation for our students, but to make Lisbon Schools a positive experience. The most important ingredient to achieving this outcome is to ensure that lines of communication are developed to all for easy resolution of questions before they become conflicts. We encourage you to express your concerns directly with our staff members by scheduling a conference or phone call to avoid any misunderstandings. Our teachers and administration have always promoted an environment conducive to open lines of communication. Lisbon has always had high standards, and will continue to appreciate the input from our stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Joe Siefke  
Superintendent Lisbon Schools  
[Joe.Siefke@lisbon.k12.oh.us](mailto:Joe.Siefke@lisbon.k12.oh.us)

## Blue Devils Newsletters in Print

### How to get printed newsletters

For those Blue Devils who would like a printed version of the district newsletter, print from the Website link below or please contact Sally Brammer via phone at 330-424-7714 or via email at [Sally.Brammer@lisbon.k12.oh.us](mailto:Sally.Brammer@lisbon.k12.oh.us)

[Newsletter on Website](#)

# News from McKinley Elementary



## Spring Is Almost Here — and We're Staying Busy at McKinley!

Dear McKinley Families,

As we head into the spring months, McKinley Elementary continues to be filled with energy, learning, and exciting opportunities for our students. We are proud of all the great things happening in our classrooms and across our school community, and we look forward to a strong finish to the school year.



Over the past several weeks, our students have had opportunities to shine both inside and outside the classroom. We would like to give a huge Blue Devil shout-out to **Callie Hayes** for representing our district at the Columbiana County Spelling Bee on March 7. We are very proud of her accomplishment! In addition, the following students participated in the Columbiana County Art Show on February 26... **Amelia Spier, Ella Lobdell, Selah McCurdy, Harrison Lively, Gwen Grubbs and Eren Lin**. McKinley student artwork was also proudly displayed at the Lisbon Founder's Day Breakfast on February 21. These experiences highlight the creativity and talent of our students.

We are also excited for upcoming performances by our younger students. First grade will present their Art and Music Program on **March 24**, followed by our Kindergarten program on **April 14**. These events are always a highlight for families and a great opportunity to see the growth and confidence of our students.

Students in grades 3–5 will soon participate in **Ohio State Testing** in English Language Arts, Math, and Science. **Third and fifth grade students will complete their English Language Arts assessments before Spring Break**, while **fourth grade students will complete their ELA assessment after Spring Break**. Following Spring Break, **students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will complete their Math assessments**, and **fifth grade students will then take their Science assessment after Math testing is complete**. We appreciate your support in helping students get a good night's rest, eat breakfast, and arrive to school on time so they are ready to do their best.

Spring Break will take place from **April 3–6 (Easter Weekend)**, and we hope this provides families with an opportunity to rest and recharge for the busy weeks ahead.

There are many exciting events on the horizon this spring. Our **PTO Spring Fling** is back this year on **April 10 from 5:00–7:30 PM!** Families can look forward to bounce houses, games, food, raffles, and plenty of fun for everyone. We hope to see you there for a great evening together as a school community.

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Students across all grade levels are continuing to learn both inside and outside of the classroom. Third grade recently traveled to the **Kamin Science Center in Pittsburgh** in February, while Kindergarten students will visit **Beech Creek Gardens** in May. After enjoying a school-wide assembly with **Raptor Hollow** earlier this year, our first grade students will also have the opportunity to visit them in May for an extended learning experience.

Many grade levels have also been planning and participating in engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Our first grade students ran a **Donut Shop**, where they learned about economics, marketing, and customer service while selling donuts. Third grade students brought history to life through their **Wax Museum**, researching a historical figure and portraying that individual for visitors. Our fifth grade students will also host their **Science Fair**, where teams research topics, conduct experiments, and test hypotheses, all while sharing their learning with families in a fun and engaging way.

As our school year comes to a close, we are especially proud of our fifth grade students as they prepare to leave McKinley Elementary. Over the coming weeks, they will celebrate several important milestones, including graduating from the **DARE program on March 6**, visiting the high school to prepare for their transition to 6th grade, and participating in an overnight field trip to **Camp Kon-O-Kwee Spencer**. They will also enjoy a 5th grade social with their classmates and take part in their traditional final walk through McKinley on the last day of school. These experiences provide meaningful opportunities to reflect, celebrate, and prepare for the next chapter. We are incredibly proud of our fifth graders and all they have accomplished during their time at McKinley, and we wish them continued success as they move on.

We are also looking forward to end-of-year traditions and celebrations. Each grade level will enjoy a trip to **Lisbon Park** in May, and students will participate in our annual **Field Day at the stadium**, which is always a favorite event filled with fun and friendly competition. Our preschool students will have their final day of school on **May 20**, followed by their **Preschool Graduation ceremony that morning** as we celebrate their accomplishments and wish them well as they move on to kindergarten.

Looking ahead, **Preschool and Kindergarten registration for the 2026–2027 school year will begin the week of March 23**. Please contact or visit **Mrs. Wallace** in the school office for more details, and please help us **spread the word** to families in our community who may have children ready to begin preschool or kindergarten. We look forward to welcoming new families to the McKinley community.

Thank you for your continued support, involvement, and partnership in your child's education. We are grateful for our McKinley families and look forward to a wonderful spring filled with learning, growth, and celebration.

With Blue Devil Pride,  
Principal Mr. Daniel Kemats

## McKinley Elementary Student Senate

This school year, the McKinley Elementary Student Senate has been very active in supporting the school and community. In the fall, they held an autograph sheet fundraiser that raised \$100 for the Columbiana County Dog Pound, with senior athletes and band members visiting McKinley to sign the sheets for students. They also organized a Spirit Week to celebrate the district's homecoming week. Additionally, Student Senate participated in the "Pennies for Paws" fundraiser sponsored by the Columbiana County Humane Society, raising hundreds of dollars for the organization, with classroom winners being Mrs. Gentile's third-grade class and Mrs. Weikart's kindergarten class. As a special incentive, the Humane Society brought cats to visit students in their classrooms. Before Christmas break, Student Senate held another Spirit Week and took part in the annual Lisbon Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade in December. They will also host an additional Spirit Week during Right to Read Week from March 9–13, with more activities planned for the spring.

## News from David Anderson Jr. Sr. High School



Principal Keith Edenfield

As the 3rd nine weeks comes to a close, the upcoming start to of the 4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks marks the Start of the end of the school year. Seniors will be entering the last 9 weeks of their high school careers at DAHS.

As we move to the end of the school year, graduation is one step closer.

The anticipation to graduation day and the activities surrounding graduation grow by the day.

Graduation is set for May 24th, 2026 at 3:00PM in the George M. Nace Gymnasium.

Parent teacher Conferences for the 2025-2026 school yea have come and gone, however, conferences can be held with your child's teacher at any time during the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact your son's or daughter's teacher to arrange for a conference if you have any questions or concerns.

Our extra-curricular activities here at DAHS are in full swing. There are a host of boys and girls  
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Baseball / Softball games (JV / Varsity) and Track meets from the junior high to the varsity level on a weekly basis.