



BLUE RIBBON

SPRING 2026

Message from the Superintendent



As we wrap up this incredible school year at Washington Court House City Schools, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by. From the first day of school to graduation celebrations, this year has been filled with moments that reminded us just how special the Blue Lion Family truly is. Whether it was our students performing on big stages, earning awards and honors, competing at high levels, exploring hands-on learning opportunities, or making lifelong memories on experiences like the Universal Studios band trip, there has

been no shortage of reasons to celebrate. Every building across our district has been filled with energy, growth and accomplishments that continue to make us proud.

As you read through this final newsletter of the school year, be sure to check out important back to school dates and information about summer opportunities for our students and families. You'll find details on free meals available through the Big Blue Bus this summer, helping ensure our students continue to have access to healthy meals even while school is out. You'll also read about one of the biggest announcements heading into next school year. Thanks to the generosity and support of our Board of Education, families will not need to purchase school supplies for students next year. We know this investment will make a meaningful difference for many of our Blue Lion families, and we are grateful for the continued commitment to supporting our students and community.

There are so many great things happening at Washington Court House City Schools, and the future is bright. We are continuing to grow opportunities for students, strengthen connections with families and build experiences that prepare our students for success long after they leave our classrooms. The best is still ahead for WCHCS.

As I reflect on this school year, I also reflect on what a privilege it has been to serve this year in Washington Court House. It did not take long to see what makes this district and community so special. The people here are not just people. They are neighbors. They are friends. They are family, the Blue Lion Family. From the very beginning, you welcomed me with open arms, supported me and made this first year one I will never forget. More than that, you made me feel like one of the pack.

Have a great summer, Blue Lions. We hope your days are filled with sunshine, laughter and absolutely no homework reminders.

It's a great day to be a Blue Lion!

Dr. Chris Briggs
Superintendent

Blue Lion Legends

A big round of applause goes out to our retiring Blue Lions. The impact of a career in education reaches far beyond the classroom walls. The lessons taught, relationships built and care shown to students over the years leave a lasting legacy that will continue to influence lives for years to come. Washington Court House City Schools is deeply grateful for all our retirees have given to the Blue Lion Family and our community.

Congratulations on this incredible milestone. We wish each of our retirees a happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement filled with joy, relaxation and new adventures ahead.



Renee McKay

Intervention Specialist, Cross-Categorical Classroom, Belle Aire Intermediate School



Betty Boisel

Educational Aide, Cherry Hill Primary School



Susan Eckles

Literacy Teacher, Cherry Hill Primary School



Craig Maddux

Principal, Cherry Hill Primary School



Rodger Mickle

Truancy Officer, Elementary School Teacher, Eastside Elementary Principal

Treasurer Update



Behind every student opportunity, classroom resource, and successful school year is a commitment to responsible planning and careful stewardship. At Washington Court House City Schools, that commitment continues to earn statewide recognition.

This spring, WCHCS received its 11th Auditor of State Award in the past 12 years, an achievement that reflects the district's long-standing dedication to financial accountability and accurate reporting. The district also earned the highest possible rating through the Ohio Auditor of State's StaRS program, recognizing excellence in transparency, public records practices, and open communication with the community.

With more than 600 public school districts across Ohio, only a limited number receive the Auditor of State Award each year. Earning this recognition once is an accomplishment. Receiving it 11 times in 12 years speaks to the consistency, integrity, and attention to detail that guide the district's financial operations year after year.

While awards are certainly worth celebrating, district leaders say the real focus remains on the people behind the numbers. Every financial decision is made with students, staff, and taxpayers in mind. From maintaining long-term stability to investing in programs and opportunities for Blue Lions, the district remains committed to using community resources wisely and transparently.

As part of its long-term financial planning, the Washington Court House City Schools Board of Education recently approved placing a 1% earned income tax renewal on the November 2026 ballot. The current income tax does not expire until the end of 2027, and if approved by voters, the renewal would continue the existing tax beginning in 2028 without increasing the current tax rate.

Washington Court House City Schools takes pride in operating with openness, accountability, and integrity. These recognitions reflect not only the hard work of the Treasurer's Office, but also the trust and support of the Washington Court House community. Together, we continue building a district focused on both student success and strong financial stewardship for years to come.

Becky Mullins



School Supplies? Already Covered.

Washington Court House City Schools is making back-to-school season a little easier and a lot more exciting for Blue Lion families. The Board of Education has approved providing school supplies for all K-8 students next school year, helping every student walk through the doors on day one prepared, confident and ready to learn.

Families can expect:

- No K-8 supply lists
- No required school supply shopping
- Supplies ready for students on day one

Small Acts, Big Impact

Washington High School students traded classrooms for community service during the 3rd Annual WHS Service Day, rolling up their sleeves to help make Washington Court House shine. From planting flowers and spreading mulch to placing flags at the cemetery and beautifying spaces across town, Blue Lions showed that some of the most powerful leadership happens through service and teamwork. What started as an idea has quickly become a proud WHS tradition that reminds us all that even the smallest acts of kindness can leave a lasting impact.



Friendship, Fun and a Little CAKE

Belle Aire Intermediate's CAKE Club served up a year full of kindness, creativity and fun. From friendship bracelets and uplifting notes to flower planting and community service projects, students spent the year making meaningful memories while spreading positivity wherever they went. Thanks to Ms. Bailey, Mrs. Downing and Mrs. New, CAKE Club continues to be one of the sweetest traditions at Belle Aire.



Hats Off to the Class of 2026

Congratulations to the Washington High School Class of 2026. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, carry with you the lessons learned, the relationships built and the pride of representing a community that believes in you. No matter where life takes you, always remember that you will forever be part of the Blue Lion Family, and we cannot wait to see the positive difference you will make in the world.



Learning Comes to Life in WIN Class

Math turned into a real-world adventure as students collected data, predicted outcomes and brought graphs to life in Mrs. Young's and Ms. Storey's WIN classes. The best part? Watching students light up as they discovered how math can help predict outcomes and make sense of the world around them.



Welcome to Camp Skeeter



Camp Skeeter brought the great outdoors inside at Cherry Hill Primary as first graders "camped" their way into summer through themed lessons, hands-on activities and unforgettable fun. This beloved Li'l Lion tradition turned the end of the school year into an adventure.

One Stage. One Sound.



One stage, three schools and countless unforgettable moments filled the air during the Blue Lion spring choir concert. Students from Belle Aire, Washington Middle School and Washington High School came together for a powerful afternoon of music that showcased the incredible talent of our Blue Lion Family.

The Future Starts Here

Our Blue Lion students who graduated from Laurel Oaks Career Campus are already turning passion into purpose. Through hands-on training, career-ready experiences and plenty of hard work, these students are building bright futures. The future is calling, and these Blue Lions are more than ready to answer.



Math Turns Into Game Day

The classroom turned into a high-energy battle of brains and strategy as students flipped cards, took risks and raced to conquer positive and negative numbers. Every red and black card brought a new challenge in adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing integers, turning math practice into an exciting competition packed with suspense and nonstop learning. By the end of the game, students were building confidence and mastering tough concepts while having a blast.



Planting the Seeds of FFA Success

Big accomplishments are growing in Blue Lion agriculture. Joel Buyer and Randon Stolzenburg earned the prestigious State FFA Degree at the 98th Ohio FFA Convention, an honor achieved by fewer than 2% of Ohio FFA members. Through leadership, service and hard work, these Blue Lions proved they are ready to cultivate bright futures.





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Important Back-To-School Dates

Aug. 10-11 – Teacher Work Days
Aug. 12-13 – Parent Orientation Meetings
Aug. 14 – First Day of School
Sept. 4 – PD Day: No School
Sept. 7 – Labor Day: No School

Catch the Big Blue Bus This Summer

The Big Blue Bus has hit the road once again. On June 1, Washington Court House City Schools began delivering free grab-and-go breakfast and lunch to children ages 1-18 across our community and will continue to do so all summer long. Since 2019, the Big Blue Bus and Little Blue Truck have served nearly half a million meals, helping keep Blue Lions fueled, healthy, and ready for summer fun.

Meals will be available at multiple convenient locations throughout Washington Court House and Fayette County, including community parks, churches, schools, and neighborhood gathering spaces.

Washington Court House Stops

Grace Community Church | 10:30-10:50 a.m.

Jenni Lane Area | 10:55-11:15 a.m.

Riverbirch Greene | 11:20-11:50 a.m.

Washington High School Cafeteria | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Splash Pad at Eyman Park | 11:55 a.m.-12:25 p.m.

Carnegie Public Library | 12:30-1 p.m.

South Side Church of Christ | 1:05-1:25 p.m.

Christman Park | 1:30-1:45 p.m.

Additional Community Stops

Belle Aire Intermediate School | 10:30-10:50 a.m.

Good Hope (Across from Town Hall) | 10:40-11 a.m.

YMCA | 10:55-11:15 a.m.

Grace Methodist Church | 11:20-11:50 a.m.

Jeffersonville Ball Fields | 11:20-11:40 a.m.

Fayette Christian School | 11:55 a.m.-12:25 p.m.

Bloomingsburg (Dollar General) | 12-12:20 p.m.

New Holland Park | 12:40-1 p.m.

Families are reminded that if an adult is picking up meals from the Big Blue Bus without the child present, a meal pick-up permission form must be completed using the QR code provided on district materials. Washington Court House City Schools encourages the entire Blue Lion Family to help spread the word by sharing this information with friends, neighbors, and families who may benefit from this valuable summer resource. Have a great summer!

