JULY/AUGUST 2026

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P U R P L E P R I D E

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

From the Superintendent

Greetings,

The 2026–2027 school year is quickly approaching, and our campus is already beginning to show the familiar signs of excitement and preparation. Staff are returning, classrooms are being refreshed, and our teams are working hard to ensure a smooth and successful start for all students. Building open houses are August 11th. Elementary School open house time is 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Jr./Sr. High School open house time is 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. School begins on August 13, 2026, and we ask everyone in our community to keep student safety in mind as buses return to their morning and afternoon routes.

We are pleased to welcome several new staff members across the district this year. Each brings valuable experience, passion, and a commitment to serving our students. We are pleased to share the updated list of new hires joining East Knox Local Schools beginning the 2026–2027 school year.

Liz	Bennington	Bus Driver
Emily	Brockway	8th Science
Angie	Buchert	2nd Grade
Austin	Burkhart	Aide (ESC)
Tiffany	Davis	Elem. Tutor/Library
Dan	Grindle	Bus Driver
Leahandria	Hood	4-6 Self Contained Resource
Chona	Marcum	Aide (ESC)
Cynthia	May	HS Graphic Arts
Melanie	Meade	Food Service
Weston	Melick	HS S.S./I.S.
Latavia	Murrell	3rd Grade
William	O'Hara	Elem. P.E./Health
Teri	Schwartz	Bus Driver
Dustin	Springer	6th Math
Macy	Springer	6th S.S.
Zach	Stair	HS Science

Our Strategic Plan, approved last year by the East Knox Board of Education, continues to guide our work and decision making.

Developed with input from over 25 students, staff, parents, and community members, the plan reflects the values that define East Knox—community, communication, learning, opportunity, and support. These values remain central as we move into the new school year.

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 Guilliams, Assistant Principal
Mr. Bailey Sprague, Athletic Director.
Mrs. Fawnda Stahl, Building Secretary, x2002
Mrs. Brianna Hickman, Attendance/Athletic Secretary, x2003
Mrs. Julia Kelly, Guidance Counselor, x2008
Mrs. Alicia Simmons, Guidance Secretary, x2004

Dr. Ben Snedeker, Director of Student Services/Spec. Ed. Coord., x1008
Miss 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
Mr. Richard Baird, Superintendent
Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, CPA, Treasurer
Mrs. Tracy Beckett, Assist., Treasurer
Mrs. Kim Grindle, Superintendent Secretary, 740-599-7000 x1002

East Knox Board Members

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

Ohio School Safety Center

Safer Ohio
School Tip Line
844.723.3764
Report concerns for student safety

https://app.saferohioschooltipline.com/

...continued from front cover

Student Experience
We are expanding opportunities for students across all grade levels.

Our new Graphic Arts Program will equip students with workforce ready skills in digital arts, marketing, and design.

The Engineering Pathway continues to grow, offering experiences from construction and transportation basics to advanced robotics programming and design.

FFA and FCCLA remain strong leadership programs that build lifelong skills in agriculture, problem solving, teamwork, and public speaking.

Driver's Education will now be offered on campus through our partnership with Precision Driving School.

At the elementary level, construction will soon begin on our new playground, enhancing student and community learning through play, movement, and outdoor exploration.

Staff Development
Our staff remain committed to continuous improvement.

Elementary teachers will begin year two of implementing the Wonders ELA curriculum, strengthening literacy instruction aligned to the Science of Reading.

Both the elementary and high school will begin using a new Social Studies and Science curriculum, ensuring updated, standards aligned materials for students.

Health and Wellness
We continue to prioritize the well being of our students and staff.

Each building has a dedicated Social Worker, School Nurse, and School Resource Officer to support safety, wellness, and student needs.

We continue to enhance our district safety plan with new applications and tools in partnership with the Knox County Sheriff's Office and multiple community agencies.

Community Engagement
We are grateful for the collaboration of our many partners: residents, local businesses, county agencies, and neighboring school districts. Their support strengthens our programs and enhances the overall student experience. We deeply appreciate the continued commitment of our community.

Financial Stewardship
East Knox Local Schools remains in good, responsible fiscal standing. We continue to monitor spending carefully and stay attentive to legislative changes and school finance developments to ensure long term stability.

East Knox is a great place, and we thank our community for your firm support and partnership.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Baird, Superintendent

East Knox FFA Member, Jasmine Smith, Receives State FFA Degree

In order to receive your State FFA Degree you must have: already received your greenhand and chapter degrees; be a junior, senior, or high school graduate; assisted with the development of the chapters program of activities; maintained outstanding SAE financial records; have a net earnings that exceed $3,000; invested at least $2,000; completed a minimum of 35 hours of community service and home improvements; participated in at least two different state sanctioned Career Development Events; demonstrated 10 abilities of parliamentary procedure; been a chapter officer or committee chairperson; participated in 8 approved activities above the chapter level, participated in at least 2 school and community service activities; completed at least 25 hours of community service in at least two different activities; and maintained a GPA greater than 2.00 with an attendance rate of 93%.

This year East Knox FFA had one member who received this award at the State FFA Convention. Pictured from left to right is: Jasmine Smith who is a senior at East Knox HS with plans to attend the Mount Vernon Nazarene University where she will be majoring in Early Childhood Education. Jasmine is the daughter of Jessica and Dennis Claggett in Bladensburg.



Picture - East Knox FFA member Jasmine Smith at the Ohio Expo Center for the State FFA Convention where she received her State FFA Degree.

Board Approved: April 10, 2025

EAST KNOX LOCAL SCHOOLS

2026-2027 CALENDAR

MONTHS	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	STUDENT DAYS	Quarter Breakdowns
AUGUST	3	4	5	6	7	⊠	⊠	⊠	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31					13	13
SEPTEMBER		1	2	3	4	*7*	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30			21	34
OCTOBER				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15]	⊠	[19	20	**dst**	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	21	11]45[10
NOVEMBER	2	3	4	**dst**	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	***26***	27	30					17	17
DECEMBER		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18]	21	22	23	24	***25***	28	29	30	31		14	14]41
JANUARY					*1*	⊠	[5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	***18***	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	18	[18
FEBRUARY	1	2	3	**jsh**	5	8	**jsh**	10	11	12	***15***	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26						19	19
MARCH	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	**ele**	12]	[15	**ele**	⊘	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31			18	10]47[8
APRIL				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	22	22
MAY	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	⊠	24	25	26	27	28	31					14	14]44
JUNE		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	*18*	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30			0	0
JULY				1	2	*5*	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	0	0
																										177	

⊠ = Teacher Work Day-No School for Students

■ = **First/Last Day of School for Students**

⊘ = Teacher Work - 2 hour delay for Students

▒ = No School for Students & Staff

dst = Districtwide Parent/Teacher Conferences-**School in Session**

ele = Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences-**School in Session**

jsh = Jr./Sr. High Parent Teacher Conferences-**School in Session**

] [= Ending] [Beginning of Quarters (Grading Periods)

GRADING PERIODS

	DAYS	
Quarter 1	45	86
Quarter 2	41	
Quarter 3	47	91
Quarter 4	44	
TOTALS	177	

Graduation: Sunday, May 16, 2027 at 2 p.m.

2026-2027 School Supply List

Jr. High (7th & 8th Grade Only)

7th Grade

Pencil pouch
Colored pencils
Earbuds/headphones
2 packs of loose leaf paper—College Ruled

Math:
2" Purple—3-ring binder
1 package of 5 tab dividers
Texas Instruments TI-30X IIS Scientific Calculator

Science:
1/2" Red—3-ring binder
Red—Spiral notebook—College Ruled

Social Studies:
Blue folder with pockets and prongs
Blue—Spiral notebook—College Ruled
Note cards

Language Arts:
1/2" Black or Blue-3 ring binder

8th Grade

All Classes—(keep in a pencil case):
Pencil case
Colored pencils
Highlighters
Pens

Math:
2" White—3-ring binder
1 package notebook paper
Texas Instruments TI-30X IIS

Science:
2" Black—3-ring binder
4 folders with pockets
1 package of notebook paper

Social Studies:
2" Blue—3-ring binder OR Blue 3-prong folder
1 package of notebook paper

Language Arts:
2" Red—3-ring binder OR Red 3-prong folder
1 folder with three punch holes
5-subject notebook or 1 package of notebook paper

K-6th

KINDERGARTEN
1 Fiskar scissors
1 plastic school box
Headphones **(NO EARBUDS)**

1ST GRADE
Scissors (Fiskar work best)
1 plastic school box **(NO LOCKS)**
Headphones **(NO EARBUDS)**
1 pocket folders
1 wide-ruled journal/notebook

2ND GRADE
Headphones (earbuds are fine)
Scissors
1 small plastic school box
4 plastic folders with pockets
Sketchbook *at least* 50 pages (art)

3RD GRADE
Comfortable headphones
6-pocket folders
1 small plastic school box
1 pair of scissors
NO TRAPPER KEEPERS
Sketchbook *at least* 50 pages (art)

4TH GRADE
Earbuds Scissors
Zippered pencil pouch
2 folders with 2 pockets
Sketchbook *at least* 50 pages (art)
Recorder-will need for at home practice (music)

5TH GRADE
Headphones
1 folder with holes
Zippered pencil pouch
Pencil sharpener
1 3—subject spiral notebook
Sketchbook *at least* 50 pages (art)

6TH GRADE
Scissors
Headphones
1 Subject Spiral notebook (math)
1 Folder w/ holes (math)
Sketchbook *at least* 50 pages (art)

MRS. NIXONS CLASS
1 plastic school box
1 pair of headphones **(no earbuds)**
1 pair of scissors
1 2—pocket folder

ALL A HONOR ROLL

4TH QUARTER 2026

3RD GRADE

ALL A'S

Dane Allbaugh
Brynleigh Amyx
Jaxon Bible
Jordan Brown
Giovanni Gardner
Zander Gilbert
Cassius Hansen
Landon Henry
Alex Henthorn
Sawyer Ivy
Paisley Jacobs
Alayna Johnson
Weston Kieber
Alexandria Larner
Briar May
Kooper Morningstar
Trinity Reese
Harper Stein
Gavin Stephens

A'S & B'S

Jalycia Beatty
Isabel Bisel
Sullivan Fisher
Jamyla Furay
Cooper Grandstaff
Jayla Gray
Brantley Hess
Sebastian Hess
Calla Hicks
Reagan Hines
Maxwell Johnson
Colt Keyes
Jaxson Lang
Hudson Miller
Chloe Moore
Lincoln Plank
Sawyer Riggle
Samantha Schwartz
Devree Talbott
Charlotte Thoma
Madelynn Tomlinson
Harrison Turner

4TH GRADE

ALL A'S

Grayson Armstrong
Aria Dunmire
Harper Flowers
Sawyer Galloway
Kinslee Howard
Ellouise Kidd
Raegan McGinnis
Wyatt Meade
Adleigh Morningstar
Kenzlie Rine
Rudanne Walsh
Klaire Willis
Elizabeth Wythe
Ryder Yeager

A'S & B'S

Beau Brady
Garret Brooks
Stephen Deem
Atlas Cook
Vagne De Souza
Liberty Dilly
Alexander French
Arayah Hanna
Layne Hanna
Faith Hays
Adeline Heston
Ryleigh Kelley
Aurora Legros
Kaicen McMillen
Kydin Morningstar
Aurora Nelson
Avery Nelson
Ella Norris
Waylon Ott
Noah Pfettscher
Chloe Rigsby
Aaliyah Riffle
Rhylee-Ann Sapp
Neida Saunders
Jake St Clair
Tucker Trein
Gary Upchurch
Xander Ward
Nile Williams

5TH GRADE

ALL A'S

Addisyn Beltz
Kinsley Clinedinst
Cameron Colopy
Vera Faucett
Connor Fisher
Hudson Halla
Lincoln Halla
Carley Hammond
Ava Koontz
Marcus Link
Aiden Nelson
Remington Nourse
Tinley Reese
Benton Riggle
Grace Weaver
Brady Whims

A'S & B'S

Bently Ansley
Hollis Banks
Cru Clark
Dharma Collins
Jackson Daugherty
Isaiah Dilly
Walid Ezzarouali
Evelyn Fletcher
Morgan Griffith
Charlotte Hoobler
Hadley Huffman
Carter Hysong
Levi Larner
Grayden McDonald
Noah Miles
Mazlynn Mills
Kempton Newsome
Elise Norris
Logan Schmidt
Kendall Temple
Dylan Undercoffer
Jordan Williamson
Kinley Wine
Kori Woods

Congratulations to all students for their hard work and dedication!

ALL A HONOR ROLL

4TH QUARTER 2026

6TH GRADE

ALL A'S

Savannah Arnold
Isaiah Bland
Avah Butcher
Raygan Clinedinst
Sydney Ferenbaugh
Parker Huffman
Andrew Keith
Junia Pfettscher
Lincoln Smith
Ethan Thoma

A'S & B'S

LillyAnne Alspach
Gianna Baker
Silas Beatty
Carly Beckley
Raelynn Black
Hunter Castro
Charlie Cooper
Kelsie Crosby
Ari Crawford
Madelyn Dale
Elaina Deem
Bentley Eickemeyer
Henley Ellis
Maddox French
Quinlan French
Leeanna Gray
Nicolas Grubaugh
Kaden Harris
Caleb Hess
Abbigail Hobart
Brooklin Jones
Jace Miller
Marley Moore
Rylei Morton
Cecilia Pratt
Abigail Proudfoot
Nicholas Rhinebolt
Levi Sapp
Aaliyah Smith
Nash Williams

Congratulations to all students for their hard work and dedication!

East Knox Jr./Sr High School

ALL A HONOR ROLL

4TH QUARTER 2026

7TH GRADE

HONOR ROLL (ALL A's & B's)

Karly Brewer
Jace Daugherty
Ayden Hanna
Christian Hawn
Karter Keathley
Jillian Kelley
Karson Legros
Cambria Lilly
Kora Logan
Jameson Perry
Kalivia Wythe

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL (ALL A's)

Jordon Adams
Rylee Black
Caiden Cottrell
Makenzie Flowers
Ava Hoobler
Elaina Koontz
Leslie Neighbarger
Tristen Reese
Emma Ridenour
Emily Schwartz
Kendall Schwartz
Kaylana Smith
Audrey Williams

8TH GRADE

HONOR ROLL (ALL A's & B's)

Ella Doane
Graham Faucett
Lola Fratangelo
Vincent Frazee
Morgan Graham
Ava Hughes
Keagan Knepp
William McDowell
Mason Oliver
Nina Athena Rabanes
Harlynn Stull
Gauge Tarrh-McDowell
Dixon Weaver
Kora Willis

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL (ALL A's)

Zachary Adams
Colin Beltz
Marissa Claggett
Mckaylee Garman
Allison Guinsler
William Houston
Lilliam Larner
Summer Lilly
Reecie Lowe
Callie May
Caralexis Muncie
Haley Page
Aidyn Phom
Addison Schillinger
Zoey Shelley
Adalynn Shepard

9TH GRADE

HONOR ROLL (ALL A's & B's)

Noah Beckley
Ellie Clark
Ella Duncan
Jaxon Graves
Kaydenlee Henderson
Justice Irwin
Kelsey Jensen
Brent Link
Lauren Moore
Mason Payne
Isabella Rine
Delaney Schlaegel
McKenzie Schwartz
Isabella Stander
Jazmin Strouse
Miley Talbott
Owen Undercoffer
Aiden Wulf

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL (ALL A's)

Reagan Beatty
Lucas Colopy
Donovan Crouch
Reem Ezzarouali
Grace Frost
Kierra Goheen
Kiren Grigsby
Zavier Guysinger
Carter Hammond
James Keith
Paizley Lilly
Camden Muncie
Emily Norris
Landon Rocha
Kylie Stephens

Congratulations to all students for their hard work and dedication!

East Knox Jr./Sr High School

ALL A HONOR ROLL

4TH QUARTER 2026

10TH GRADE

HONOR ROLL (ALL A's & B's)

Kayden Blackshear
Miles Colopy
Kendall Griffith
Alexander Guinsler
Brooklynn Kahoe
Kenlie Moore
Aaron Raber
Carter Swartz
Alexia Wine
Alexandria Wythe

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL (ALL A's)

Curtis Divan
Maddison McKean
Rhyan Williams

11TH GRADE

HONOR ROLL (ALL A's & B's)

Alexia Atkins
Ava Faucett
Miranda Fawcett
Cheyanne Glover
Liberty Hall
Eleanor Hayes
Jazmaine Murphy
Alexis Neighbarger
Quentin Rose
Ashlyn Sesco
Grace Shank
Zavier Swope

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL (ALL A's)

Isabelle Bostic
Jayden Kirk
Brody Korosec
Lily May
Wyatt McDowell
Noah Nelson
Ava Page
Ryan Peck
Lilliann Scott
Imogen Winkler
Rylan Winkler

12TH GRADE

HONOR ROLL (ALL A's & B's)

Bella Brady
Joslyn Campos
Landen Davis
Jaycub Hagans
Zoey Huffman
Jaxon Lester
Hanna Merritt
Miles Mitchell
Thyler Phom

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL (ALL A's)

Daniel Adams
Ariel Atkinson
Jacob Blakely
Hunter Calbert
Cadence Johnson
Jasmine Smith
Ryan Vlock

Congratulations to all students for their hard work and dedication!

East Knox FFA Members Recognized at the State FFA Convention

Recently, members of the East Knox FFA chapter attended the 98th Ohio FFA State Convention. The event was held at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. It was open to FFA chapters from all parts of the state and gives recognition to those who have accomplished great tasks within their state and community in the past year. It is a celebration of the Ohio FFA's growth and achievements and a leadership experience for those in attendance.

The Ohio FFA State Convention consists of leadership workshops, a career show, and sessions that include award recognition and motivational speakers. Speakers discuss leadership topics such as how to make an impact in your community, ways to make your journey in FFA better, and even important life lessons (like how your decisions can affect those around you).

This year was an especially successful and important year at convention for the East Knox FFA chapter. Many members were recognized on the state level for their accomplishments. Two of the officers were given gold ratings this year. Miranda Fawcett was awarded the State Gold Treasurer Award and Hayden Garman was awarded a State Gold Reporters Award. In order to receive any of the three awards mentioned above, members must serve in one of the offices and keep the necessary records and receive a gold rating when the books are evaluated by the District and State FFA. They must show outstanding qualities of leadership in their position and complete all of the tasks and duties that are a part of their role.

Two of our members served as Voting Delegates, Mackenzie Wilson and Ava Page, for the Business Meeting and luncheon where they also got to cast their votes on the newly elected State FFA Officer Team for 2026-27. Jasmine Smith also received her State FFA Degree on stage as well.

Members of the East Knox FFA that attended were: State GOLD Officers: Miranda Fawcett (Treasurer) and Hayden Garman (Reporter)



…continued from previous column

Thursday attendees: (Front Row): Madison Negron, Miranda Fawcett, Ava Page, Peyton Harris, Avery Hanners, Kelsey Jensen, McKenzie Schwartz, Rhyley Lilly, Caylynn Kieber, Wyatt Baker, Alexia Wine. (Back Row): Noah Beckley, Brayden Moran, AJ Salmons, John Chadwick, Bryar Wilson, Jasmine Smith, Mackenzie Wilson, Mason Keene, Hayden Garman, Laureyah Neely, and Joey Lively.



Friday attendees: (Front Row): Madison Negron, Alexia Wine, Madisyn Frost, and Caylynn Kieber**.** (Middle Row): Laureyah Neely, Noah Beckley, Bryar Wilson, Joey Lively, Wyatt Baker, Rhyley Lilly, Kelsey Jensen, and Avery Hanners**.** (Back Row): Hayden Garman, John Chadwick, John Schillinger, AJ Salmons, Jasmine Smith, Mackenzie Wilsin, Mason Keene, Miranda Fawcett, Brayden Moran, and Peyton Harris



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
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43050

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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HOWARD, OH 43028

East Knox Local School District

"Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek."

~Mario Andretti~

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.

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