

CHIEFTAIN CHAT

SUMMER SPECIAL EDITION 2026

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE



As I conclude my fifth year as Superintendent, I am proud of the progress our district has made and excited about what lies ahead. In this edition of the Chieftain Chat, you'll find highlights of our students' success in academics, athletics, and the fine arts, along with the continued growth of our programs and opportunities.

Over the past several years, we have made meaningful improvements across the district—from expanding academic opportunities to enhancing our facilities—while maintaining strong community partnerships, financial stability, and a dedicated staff. These efforts continue to create a positive and supportive environment where our students can thrive.

Our partnerships with the community continue to grow and play a vital role in supporting our mission. We are fortunate to have a community that stands behind its schools. That support has been instrumental in maintaining our financial stability and allowing us to invest in meaningful improvements that directly benefit our students.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our staff and the continued support of our families and community members. Their commitment to our students is what drives our success every day.

Thank you for your continued support of Hopewell-Loudon Local Schools. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at mwhite@hlschool.net or 419-937-2216.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael P. White".

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

We congratulate the members of the Class of 2026 and wish each graduate continued success in college, the military, the workforce, and beyond. We are proud of all you have accomplished and look forward to seeing the impact you will make in your future endeavors.

FINANCIALLY SOUND, COMMUNITY FOCUSED

At Hopewell-Loudon, we are proud to share that our district remains in strong financial condition. Over the past several years, we have been intentional and disciplined in managing district finances, setting aside funds for future capital improvements while protecting our daily operating budget.

Because of this careful planning, we can complete major facility improvements without impacting the educational programs our students depend upon.

Current projects funded through these long-term savings include:

- Construction of the new athletic facility
- HVAC upgrades for Chieftain Gym
- Roof improvements and ongoing facility maintenance

These improvements reflect our commitment to providing safe, modern learning environments that serve both our students and our community.

NAVIGATING A CHANGING FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

While we celebrate these accomplishments, school finance continues to face significant uncertainty. Changes in state funding formulas and ongoing discussions surrounding property tax reform create an ever-changing financial environment.

Please know that we remain committed to carefully managing every tax dollar entrusted to us while planning responsibly for the future.

Thank you, Chieftain Nation, for your continued trust and unwavering support.





HOPEWELL-LOUDON JOINS THE NORTHERN 10 CONFERENCE

Beginning in the fall of 2026, Hopewell-Loudon will officially compete in the Northern 10 Athletic Conference (N10).

This move reconnects our district with several long-standing rivalries while providing new opportunities for competitive growth and student-athlete development.

THE CONFERENCE INCLUDES:

Buckeye Central	Mohawk	Upper Sandusky
Bucyrus	New Riegel	Willard
Carey	Old Fort	Wynford
Colonel Crawford	Seneca East	
Lucas	Tiffin Calvert	

We are excited to begin this new chapter in Chieftain Athletics.

DISTRICT FACILITIES

As mentioned in previous editions of the Chieftain Chat, the district remains committed to the design and construction of a new student-centered athletic facility. The building will be located on the south end of the all-weather track and will include locker rooms, restrooms, a state-of-the-art weight room, concessions, and storage space.

The estimated cost of this project is \$3.8 million and will be funded entirely through the district's Permanent Improvement Fund. Construction is expected to begin later this summer, with an anticipated completion date of June 2027.



ACADEMIC GROWTH & PRESCHOOL EXPANSION

Hands-on learning and applied educational experiences continue to be a priority at Hopewell-Loudon. Robotics, computer programming, and STEM instruction have become increasingly popular among our students.

To meet this growing demand, a portion of the current library will be transformed into a dedicated STEM Learning Lab, providing expanded opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and problem-solving.

In addition, preschool expansion is currently in the planning and design phase. The additional classroom space will be located adjacent to the existing preschool classroom in the high school wing.

The expansion will allow us to add an additional half-unit preschool classroom to the 36 students currently served.

This growth is a direct response to increasing community demand, and we remain committed to providing high-quality early childhood education for our youngest Chieftains.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR CHIEFTAIN STADIUM

In addition to the new athletic facility, a Capital Campaign Committee has been formed to raise \$2.5 million to relocate Chieftain Stadium to the current all-weather track complex.

This portion of the project will move forward only if the campaign successfully secures private donations. The official campaign kickoff is scheduled for August 14th at 7:00 p.m. at Paul Jones Track.

FUNDS RAISED THROUGH THIS EFFORT WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE:

- A new synthetic turf playing surface
- Expanded home and visitor seating
- A larger press box
- A new scoreboard
- A new ticket booth
- An enhanced stadium entrance plaza



We hope you will consider supporting this exciting investment in the future of Chieftain Athletics. Additional information can be found at www.hlschool.net/our-district.



OASBO FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Myranda Dible for being selected as the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) Food Service Director of the Year.

Myranda and her staff work tirelessly to provide nutritious, high-quality meals for our students each day while creating a welcoming environment in our cafeteria.

This prestigious recognition reflects her outstanding leadership, commitment to student wellness, and dedication to serving the Hopewell-Loudon community. We are incredibly proud of Myranda and grateful for the positive impact she has on our students each day.



Left to Right: Matt White, Brian Rothrock, Myranda Dible and Nick Bergman



HOPEWELL-LOUDON SCHOOLS

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Dean of Students

2025–2026 DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS FOOTBALL



This past fall, our Chieftain Football Team gave our community a season to remember by finishing as Division VI State Runner-Up and earning the

opportunity to compete for a State Championship.

Congratulations to Head Coach Brian Colatruglio, his coaching staff, and every member of the team on an incredible season. Your dedication, toughness, and commitment to one another made the entire Chieftain Nation proud and created memories that will last a lifetime.

CONCERT BAND



This spring, our Chieftain Concert Band earned a

Superior Rating at the State Large Group Adjudicated Competition—

the highest rating received by Hopewell-Loudon in more than 40 years.

Congratulations to Mr. Jess Nelson and all of our student musicians on this outstanding accomplishment. Your hard work, dedication, and pursuit of excellence continue to make our school and community proud.

TRACK & FIELD PROGRAM



Our boys' and girls' track programs also enjoyed an outstanding season.

Lily Brickner, a sophomore, qualified for the State Meet in the long jump.

Ellie Bloom, a freshman, placed 12th in the State in the high jump.

Aiden Ewald, senior, captured the Regional Championship in the shot put before finishing 3rd in the State. He also qualified for the State Meet in the discus, where he earned State Runner-Up honors for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations to Coach Helen Coleman, Coach Teresa Jones, and their coaching staff for another exceptional season.