

THE H-L CHIEFTAIN

A Publication of Hopewell-Loudon Local Schools

"An Excellent School Striving To Become Better"

August 2026



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ONLINE SERVICE FEES WAIVED

The district is waiving the online transaction fees for school fee and lunch account payments through September 30, 2026. We encourage all families to utilize our online payment system at www.payschoolscentral.com

Click [here](#) for more information.



2026-2027 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

BACK TO
SCHOOL NIGHTS

JR./SR. HIGH

AUGUST
24TH

ELEMENTARY

AUGUST
31ST



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
SEPT 2ND



GRADUATION
MAY 23RD



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
MAY 27TH

NO SCHOOL



LABOR DAY SEPT 7TH



STAFF WORK DAY NOV 25TH



THANKSGIVING NOV 26-27TH



CHRISTMAS BREAK DEC 23RD - JAN 4TH



MLK DAY JAN 18TH



PRESIDENTS' DAY FEB 15TH



EASTER BREAK MAR 26TH - MAR 29TH



2-HOUR DELAYS



SEPT 24TH



OCT 29TH



JAN 28TH



FEB 25TH



MAR 25TH



APR 29TH



PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES



7-12
OCT 29TH
3:15-7:15 PM



K-12
NOV 5TH
3:15-7:15 PM



K-6
NOV 12TH
3:15-7:15 PM

END OF QUARTER DATES

OCT
30TH

1ST QUARTER

JAN
15TH

2ND QUARTER

MAR
19TH

3RD QUARTER

MAY
27TH

4TH QUARTER

HOPEWELL LOUDON
CHIEFTAINS

SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Matthew White, Superintendent

A New School Year and an Exciting Future at H-L

Summer is always a busy time at Hopewell-Loudon, and this year has been no exception. While our students and staff have enjoyed some time away, our buildings have been anything but quiet. Our maintenance and custodial teams have worked hard throughout the summer to make sure our buildings and grounds are clean, refreshed, and ready to welcome everyone back for another exciting school year.

There is a lot to be excited about as we begin the 26–27 school year. We continue to look for ways to improve opportunities for our students while making sure Hopewell-Loudon remains a place where Excellence is the Standard.



Growing Opportunities for Our Students

We have made several changes this year designed to better serve our students and expand opportunities:

- **Preschool:** We have added an additional half-day preschool unit, meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays, allowing us to provide opportunities for more of our youngest Chieftains.
- **STEM:** We have created a larger, dedicated space for our STEM classes in the library, providing students with more room to explore, create, and learn.
- **Student Services:** We have added an additional cross-categorical unit and a new sensory room location to better meet the individual needs of our students.

These may seem like small changes, but they represent our ongoing commitment to providing the right opportunities and resources for every student who walks through our doors.

New Leadership and New Perspectives

This school year also brings some exciting changes to our administrative team.

I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Melissa Zaciewski as our new K–6 Elementary Principal. At the same time, Mrs. Kendra Nelson, who has been a longtime administrator and valued leader at Hopewell-Loudon, will take over leadership of our 7–12 Junior High/High School.

We are also excited to welcome Ms. Bridget Piotter as our new Director of Student Services.

Each of these individuals brings unique experiences, strengths, and perspectives to our leadership team. I am excited about the energy and ideas they will bring to Hopewell-Loudon and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on our students, staff, and families.

Building for the Future

We are also entering an exciting new chapter with our facilities. Construction on our new athletic building is expected to begin soon, with the goal of completing the project in June 2027. This facility will provide our students with new locker rooms, an expanded and state-of-the-art weight room, concessions, public restrooms, and significant storage space for our athletic programs.

But our vision for our athletic complex does not stop there.

Our Capital Campaign Committee is working to raise \$2.5 million to help move the football field to the current track complex and complete the improvements needed to create a first-class athletic and community facility. This project is about much more than football. It is about creating a facility that our students, families, alumni, and entire community can be proud of and enjoy for generations.

An Exciting Time to Be a Chieftain

As I look around Hopewell-Loudon, I see a district that is moving forward. We have tremendous students, an outstanding staff, strong community support, new leadership, expanded opportunities, and exciting improvements on the horizon.

There is a lot happening—and I couldn't be more excited about where we are headed.

Welcome back, Chieftains! Let's make it another great year. Go Chieftains!

JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

[Hopewell-Loudon JR/SRHigh](#) 

Mrs. Kendra Nelson, JR/SR High Principal



It's beginning to look like fall around the JH/HS side of the building. The maintenance crew has the building looking great. The campus is buzzing with band camp and athletic practices. Teachers are in the building getting their rooms ready for the beginning of the school year.

We'll be hosting our JH/HS Open House on Monday, August 24th from 4pm to 6pm. Students will have the chance to pick up schedules, find their lockers, and walk their schedules. Parents will be able to pay fees. If Open House doesn't work in your schedule, Mrs. Colatruglio will be available for fees to be paid on 8/18, 8/19, and 8/20 from 9-2. Please note, fees for students in grades 7-12 ONLY can be paid during those days/hours. If you'd rather skip the lines altogether, fees can be paid on our online [PaySchools](#) system.

While our boys and girls golf teams, volleyball teams, and football teams had seen competition already, we officially kicked off the fall season on Friday, August 14th at 7:00. The "Fall Kickoff" was held at our track and was a community event. All fall teams and the band were introduced.

Our Sentinel Students will be returning to the classroom in a staggered start format. The students who attend in the PM will start on 8/18. The students who attend in the AM will attend on 8/19. All students attend on August 20th. August 21st is a workday for the teachers at Sentinel. Classes resume on August 24th.

We are looking forward to welcoming the 7-12 students back to school on September 2nd. We have two new staff members to welcome this fall. We are welcoming Josh Miller as a new English Language Arts teacher; and we are welcoming Sarah Depinet as our new study hall monitor. Kaitlyn Hoyer will be moving to our library aide position.

Please check out our Hopewell-Loudon Jr/Sr High Facebook page for updates and activities happening in our building. Please also stay tuned to Channel 14 to see what we're up to.



ELEMENTARY



Mrs. Melissa Zaciewski, Elementary Principal



Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I am excited to join the Hopewell-Loudon Team and look forward to welcoming our students and families back to school. Our elementary staff is busy preparing classrooms and learning spaces, and we cannot wait to begin a wonderful year together! We're excited for our students to dive into new routines, build friendships, and embrace the exciting challenges of the year ahead.

Back-to-School Forms

All families, including preschool, should complete their FinalForms as soon as possible. These forms provide critical information and permissions related to student safety, family communication, transportation, technology, school meals, participation in activities, and many other important aspects of the school year. Families who have previously completed FinalForms should find that much of their information has been prepopulated. Please carefully review the information, make any necessary updates, and sign all required forms for the 2026–2027 school year.

Class Lists

Elementary class lists will be posted on the elementary entrance doors on Friday, August 28, at 4:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night

Back-to-School Night will be held on the evening of Monday, August 31 for grades K-6. Informational meetings will be held for each grade level. Please see the schedule below for your scheduled meeting time and location. Following the brief meeting, you will have the opportunity to drop off supplies and meet with teachers. Kona Ice will be available for purchase at Back-to-School Night, providing families with an opportunity to enjoy a cool treat before heading home! Proceeds from Kona Ice sales will support our 6th Grade camp trip! Our preschool teachers will be meeting individually with families. Please note, they will not be available on our Elementary Back-to-School Night. Be sure to check your email to sign up for a date and time to meet with them.

TIME	AUDITORIUM	GRAY GYM
5:00 PM	Kindergarten	
5:30 PM	6th Grade	1st Grade
6:00 PM	5th Grade	2nd Grade
6:30 PM	3rd Grade	4th Grade

First Days of School

Students in grades 1–6 will begin school on Wednesday, September 2. Kindergarten students will participate in staggered start days on September 2, 3, and 4. Families who do not remember their child's assigned start date should contact elementary secretary, Mrs. Kapelka. All kindergarten students will attend school together beginning Tuesday, September 8. Monday/Wednesday preschool students will begin classes on September 2nd as well and Tuesday/Thursday preschool students will kick off the year on September 3rd.

We are looking forward to an outstanding school year filled with learning, growth, and meaningful connections. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We cannot wait to welcome our students back to Hopewell-Loudon Elementary!

ATHLETICS

Fall Preview

All of the Hopewell-Loudon Fall athletic teams have begun preparation for the Fall season. We have all of our Head Coaches returning this fall, Kailey Depinet for Girls Cross Country, Brian Colatruglio for Football, Sara Bell for Volleyball, Justin Rohrer for Boys Golf, Helen Coleman for Boys Cross Country, Joe Cline for Girls Golf and Kacie Costilla for Cheer are all back for another year.

Boys and Girls Golf started their seasons on Friday July 31st and have many events in August. Football and Cheer open up on August 21st at Home vs Lake. Volleyball starts up on Aug 22nd Home vs Columbian. All of our Cross Country runners begin their season on Aug 22nd at Seneca East. Come out and support our teams.

Pass Information

Family All Sports Pass- \$325

Senior Pass- Over 65 and live in HL School District- Free

Out of District Senior Pass- \$75, purchased every year.

All Passes are sold in the HS Office from 8am-3pm

All of our Junior High and High School football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball will be live streamed for free this year. Games can be found at www.hlschool.net under the Athletics tab.

Go Chieftains!

TRANSPORTATION

Please check your Final Forms transportation page for busing information beginning 8/19/2026. If you have questions after you have checked your page, please email jfahl@hlschool.net. Please be as detailed in your email as possible with your request and include a phone number you can be reached at. We will work through each concern as quickly as possible.

During the first couple weeks of school, bus stop timing may be off by 10 - 15 minutes until things settle out. Please note your child's go-home bus number (route number) and review this with your child. Teachers will have a list of bus numbers (route numbers) and where their bus will be parked in the afternoon. Sometimes the bus number (route number) may change due to mechanical issues or other reasons, however the parking place of the bus will remain the same.

Bus safety is top priority for all our students and drivers, one major component is behavior on the school bus. Students need to exercise good manners and behavior on the school bus. Sit quietly, talk quietly with their seat partner, and be respectful of those around them. Follow the directions of the driver and be kind to one another. The driver will go over the expectations of good school bus behavior, but nothing is as effective as parental guidance and support. Thank you for your contribution to your child's well being and safety of themselves and others while using HL transportation.

Thank you,

Jeff Fahl, Transportation Supervisor



CAFETERIA

2026-2027 MEAL PRICES

Breakfast: K-12 \$2.00

Lunch: K-6 \$2.75, 7-12 \$3.00

WELCOME BACK!

We are excited to have students back on September 2nd to kick off the 26-27 school year. The lunch menu will be available soon on the school website. Please visit www.payschoolscentral.com or download the app to track your students' meal accounts and make payments. Reminder that all online transaction fees are waived through September 30, 2026. If your student has any food allergies or diet concerns, be sure to enter that information into final forms. You can also reach out to Myranda Dible, Food Service Director, at mdible@hlschool.net with any questions or concerns.

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS:

All families are able to apply for free or reduced meals for the 2026-2027 school year. We encourage you to apply online at www.payschoolscentral.com. Paper applications are also available in the office, or you can print one off from the cafeteria page on the school website. We will complete the Direct Certification process through the state of Ohio for free or reduced meals close to the beginning of the school year. If you have students who qualify, you will receive an email and a letter in the mail.

LUNCH POLICY REMINDERS

- All money has to be turned into the office. No cash will be accepted at the registers.
- Students with a negative balance greater than -\$25 will not be served breakfast.
- Students with negative balances will not be able to use cash to purchase extras.
- Students with a negative balance greater than -\$25 will be served an alternative lunch.

HALL OF FAME

The Hopewell-Loudon Hall of Fame recognizes those persons whom have made a significant contribution to Hopewell-Loudon School. You are invited to nominate such persons. Nomination forms are available on the school website, in the Board Office, or at the link below. Please submit nominations in writing to the Board Office by October 1, 2026. Be sure to include pertinent personal information and information explaining why the candidate is being nominated. Nominations may be made by any H-L graduate, or any resident of the Hopewell-Loudon School District. [Nomination Form](#)

Nomination forms may be mailed to:
Hopewell-Loudon School
Attn: Hall of Fame
PO Box 400
Bascom, OH 44809

