

ALLEN EAST LOCAL SCHOOLS

2026–2027

Welcome Back Edition



Hello, Allen East Community!

I am truly excited to join the Mustang family! During Meet the Candidate Night, as I looked out at a library filled with community members and staff asking thoughtful questions, it was clear how deeply this community cares about the success of Allen East Local Schools. Following the March Board meeting, a group of teachers graciously gave my husband and me a tour of the building, and their enthusiasm for the district and

their students was contagious. Even before officially beginning, we had the opportunity to attend the Moms and Dads' Club Reverse Raffle and the Harrod Pork Rind Heritage Festival—what a wonderful way to meet so many community members who are eager to support the district. I am grateful to be joining a school community with such dedicated educators and strong community pride!

Allen East Local Schools already feels like home. I grew up in Wapakoneta and attended high school there. My father worked at Dana Corporation, and trips to the Lima area were always a highlight for shopping and spending time together. I earned my bachelor's degree at Ohio State Lima, followed by a master's degree in Administration and Supervision from Bowling Green State University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Concordia University of Chicago.

I bring 11 years of experience as an elementary and middle school teacher, including time in Baltimore City, Maryland, and at Jackson Center Local Schools in Ohio. I also have 11 years of experience as a principal, serving in New Knoxville Local Schools and Urbana City Schools. In addition, I spent 8 years as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Urbana City Schools, working closely with the superintendent and managing responsibilities similar to those of an assistant superintendent.

My husband, John Willoughby, and I have four children and three grandchildren. We enjoy spending time outdoors hiking, biking, and kayaking. John is a semi-retired educator with experience as a high school business teacher, athletic director, assistant principal, and longtime varsity basketball coach. We are both looking forward to attending many Mustang events together.

Thank you for the warm welcome to Allen East Local Schools. I've already had the opportunity to speak with many staff members throughout the district and look forward to speaking with all staff as the school year begins.

On Tuesday, August 18, the district will host its Open House from 4-6:30. The August Board meeting will follow at 7:00 PM. In this meeting, I will share the feedback I have received from staff and the four goals set to guide this school year. I welcome you to attend the Open House and to stay for the August Board meeting to hear about all of the great things ahead. I look forward to meeting you and working together to continue building great things for our students and community!

Sincerely,
Dr. Julie Willoughby
Superintendent
Allen East Local Schools

Tiffini Flugga, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Mustang Families,

Summer is officially underway, and our team is already busy preparing for another fantastic year at Allen East Elementary! Throughout the summer months, our custodial staff is working diligently to ready our classrooms and hallways, while teachers and staff members are planning engaging learning experiences for the year ahead.

We hope your family is enjoying a wonderful summer filled with rest, fun, and special memories. We look forward to welcoming our Mustangs back to school and kicking off another successful year together!

General Information and Updates

Attendance Matters!

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's academic success. Every school day provides valuable learning opportunities, classroom discussions, and social interactions that are difficult to replicate when students are absent. Establishing strong attendance habits early helps students build routines, stay connected to their learning, and reach their full potential.

We encourage families to make school attendance a priority and schedule appointments or vacations outside of school hours whenever possible. By working together, we can ensure that every Mustang has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed each day.

School Supplies Lists:

School supplies lists are available on the district's webpage by clicking on Forms/Links, Parents and Community, Elementary, School Supplies 2026-2027.

Student Homeroom Assignments:

In mid August, student homeroom assignments will be available! Assignments will be shared electronically via the email address that we have on file in Final Forms. Class lists will also be posted during **Open House on August 18, 2026 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm.**

First Day of School Requests:

To help ensure a smooth and positive start to the school year, we ask that parents and guardians say their goodbyes at the drop-off area and allow students to enter the building independently on the first day of school. While we understand that the first day can be exciting, our experience has shown that students often transition more successfully when they enter the building with their classmates and school staff.

Our team will have plenty of staff members available throughout the building to greet students, answer questions, and provide support as needed. Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in helping us create a confident and successful start for all of our Mustangs!

We are grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow alongside your children each day. Thank you for being an important part of our school community. Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone back for another successful school year! It's GREAT to be a Mustang!

Jill Ackerman, MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

Allen East Middle School is excited to kick off the new school year!

Our focus for student leadership continues to be GO BLUE:

BELONGING: listening, being responsible, accepting consequences,

LEAD: have all class materials, report major problems, are ALWAYS on time

UPLIFT: are ALWAYS positive, have a good attitude, and explore multiple solutions

ENGAGE: focus, participate, ask for help

I am looking forward to serving in my second year at Allen East Middle School. Our focus continues to be on a strong and rigorous academic environment. Parental engagement will also be an important focus for the 26-27 school year. It takes all of us working together to ensure student success. Please take time to talk to your child about their school progress and experiences. Grades are posted on a regular basis on Schoology and you, as parents, are able to access them. Please reach out to our staff if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Open House on August 18 from 4:00-6:30.

Sarah Jamison, HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Hello Families!

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself. I am Sarah Jamison, and I will be the new high school principal. I live in Landeck with my husband and our two boys, Declan (10) and Mike (7). I am so excited to be joining such a wonderful community, and I am looking forward to working together in the year ahead.

To our high school students, I wanted to share the following letter as we begin this school year:

Dear Students,

Whether you are starting your high school career or beginning your last chapter, you are moving past being just students and becoming young adults. It is in these halls that you will learn that an education isn't measured by the grade you receive; the real lessons live in the mistakes you make, the effort you put in, and the questions you ask. You can pass a class and learn nothing, or fail a test and learn everything. Your teachers aren't here to give you the answers; they're here to teach you how to think. School should be a place where you feel safe to be wrong, change your mind, and try again.

Mustangs are known as resilient animals that don't look for the easiest route; they adjust to the rough terrain in front of them. That's what grit looks like in nature. In school, grit looks like sitting with the discomfort of a bad grade long enough to actually learn from it. It sounds like asking "how do I prepare better?" instead of "can I have an extension?"

What are the defining characteristics of a mustang?

1. **Resilient by nature**, mustangs survive harsh terrain, extreme weather, and scarce resources. They don't quit.
2. **They learn through experience**, mustangs aren't born knowing how to navigate tough land; they learn it by living it.
3. **Built for the long run**, mustangs aren't sprinters. They're built for endurance.

CONTINUED - Sarah Jamison, High School Principal

Remember: a GPA is a sprint. Life is a long run. The habits, grit, and character you build here at Allen East High School are what last. Your educational journey will have challenges and those challenges are meant to be hard. The moments you feel most stuck are often where the most learning happens.

So we're going to challenge you to pull out your inner Mustang. Yes, we expect a lot from you — because we know you're capable of a lot.

Cheers to the start of an amazing school year!

Allan King Jr., ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Welcome Mustang Fans!

As the summer sun begins to set and the fall rolls into Harrod, there is an unmistakable energy in the air. It is time for another thrilling year of Allen East Athletics!

Our student-athletes, coaches, and staff have been working tirelessly all summer long—enduring the heat, hitting the weight room, and running drills—all to ensure we represent the Blue and White with pride, integrity, and a relentless competitive spirit.

We are incredibly excited to welcome our community back to the stands. Whether you are under the Friday night lights at the football stadium, cheering in the gymnasium for volleyball, or supporting our cross-country runners, soccer players, and golfers, your energy is what drives our programs forward. You are the heartbeat of Mustang Country.

Mark Your Calendars: Homecoming 2026

While the entire fall schedule is packed with must-see matchups, please make sure to mark your calendars for one of our favorite community traditions. This year's **Homecoming game will be on Friday, October 2nd!** We look forward to seeing alumni, families, and fans fill the stands to make it a memorable night.

Ticketing & Passes

To make your entry into our home events as smooth as possible, we are continuing to offer cash options as well as digital ticketing and seasonal passes. Keep an eye on our official athletic website and social media channels in the coming days for direct links to purchase your season passes and individual game tickets.

A Note on Sportsmanship

As we kick off this season, let's remember that high school sports are an extension of the classroom. We challenge our athletes to compete with sportsmanship, and we ask the same of our incredible fans. Let's keep our cheers positive, respectful to the officials and opposing teams, and loudly supportive of our Mustangs.

Thank you for your unwavering support of Allen East High School Athletics. Let's make the 2026-2027 school year our best one yet! Go Mustangs!

Joe Wermert, SPECIAL ED DIRECTOR / PRESCHOOL SUPERVISOR

Hello Mustang Families!

I am honored to join Allen East Local Schools as the Director of Special Education and Preschool Supervisor. I am passionate about supporting students, collaborating with educators, and partnering with families to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

I am grateful to become part of the Allen East community and look forward to building strong relationships with students, staff, and families. I believe that collaboration and communication are key to student success, and I am eager to work alongside our dedicated team to support the needs of all learners. Thank you for welcoming me to Allen East. I am excited to serve our students and families and contribute to the continued success of the district.

At Allen East Local Schools, we are committed to ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education and the support they need to succeed. Through our Preschool Program and Special Education Programs, we work to identify and serve students who may have developmental delays or disabilities as early as possible.

Last year, our district provided services to over 175 students with disabilities. We provide both Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and more. We also service over 50 students with 504 or health plans. Serving our students is our number one priority no matter what ability level, and it's our mission to help support and promote growth in all areas of development based on individual needs.

What is Child Find?

Child Find is a federal requirement that helps schools identify, locate, and evaluate children from birth through age 21 who may need special education services. If parents, caregivers, physicians, childcare providers, or community members have concerns about a child's development, learning, communication, behavior, or social skills, they are encouraged to contact the school district for assistance. We offer a wide variety of screenings and services to make sure Every Student Succeeds (ESSA).

Preschool Services at Allen East

Allen East Mini Mustang Preschool provides developmentally appropriate learning experiences for young children while supporting school readiness skills in language, literacy, mathematics, social-emotional development, motor skills, and independence. For children who qualify for special education services, individualized supports and related services may be available to address identified developmental needs. Early identification and intervention can make a significant difference in a child's growth and future success. If you have concerns about your child's development or would like additional information about preschool services, Child Find, or special education supports, please contact Allen East Local Schools. We are committed to partnering with families to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

Heather Burden, FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR

Welcome Back!

As we head into a new school year, there are a few important Food Service topics to highlight.

2026-2027 Meal Prices

These prices are determined on if your child(ren) qualify for a free, reduced, or paying meals.

Breakfast K-12th \$2.00

Regular Lunch K-4th \$3.25

Regular Lunch 5th-12th \$3.50

Mustang Meal: (Same menu each week) 5th-12th \$3.50

***Reminders:**

Only fifth grade and up will be able to purchase a Mustang Meal Lunch.

No child is allowed to use their siblings lunch account for meals or a la carte items.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications

We encourage you to fill out the Free & Reduced Meal Benefit application. The application is available on the Allen East website under the PaySchools/Free & Reduced Lunch icon. **Reminder that a Free & Reduced Application must be filled out yearly to qualify for the next school year. Applications do not roll over from year to year.**

***This school year (2026-2027) all meals will be free to the students that qualify for reduced meals.**

Making a payment

There are several options available for families to use when making a payment to their child(ren)'s lunch account.

-Online, pre-payments (PaySchools)

-Cash (Younger children can give to teacher, older children can bring to lunch)

-Check (Younger children can give to teacher, older children can bring to lunch)

*When sending cash or check it is extremely important to have the students name and ID number written on the check memo line and/or the envelope. This will ensure the funds are placed on the correct account.

Low Balance Notifications

There are several ways parents can stay updated on their child(ren)'s account balance. Parents and students can log into their PaySchools account and view purchases and balances. Families may also choose to receive a low balance email and/or text alerts when the account balance gets low. This will help prevent your child(ren) from having a negative balance.

Our Food Service Department follows the State Guidelines/Standards to provide the children of Allen East a healthy and nourishing meal.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Burden burdenh@alleneastschools.org or 419-648-3333 Ext. 1505.

Jim Hunsaker, TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Dear Students and Parents,

On behalf of the entire Transportation Department, I would like to welcome you and your students back for the 2026-2027 school year! We hope you had a safe, relaxing summer and are as excited as we are to kick off a brand-new year of learning.

Once the bus routes are finalized, you should receive an email from the Allen East Transportation Department informing you of the bus number and scheduled pickup/drop-off time for your children. This email will be sent out by mid-August (at the latest) to the parent email address we have on file. I will also have a list of student bus assignments on a separate table at open house, so you can skip the line and check the bus roster.

I STRONGLY encourage you to reach out to me BEFORE open house if you have any questions. I can be reached by email (preferred) at hunsakerj@alleneastschools.org or by phone at 419-648-3333 ext. 1506.

Here are a few reminders for a successful year:

- **Review Bus Rules Basic Information:** Student safety is our top priority. Please take a moment to review bus safety procedures with your child. This includes maintaining proper behavior on the bus, practicing safe waiting at bus stops, and following the driver's instructions. There is some additional information located on the Allen East website. You can reach the transportation department page by navigating to Departments, then selecting Transportation.
- **Bus Schedules:** Please remember to have your children waiting at least 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the bus. State law requires students to be waiting before the scheduled bus stop time. If the bus has to wait, it can present several safety issues for the driver and other students on the bus, especially if it is a busy road such as a state highway. If student(s) are not out and visible in their safety waiting place (as designated by the bus driver), the bus driver will move on to the next stop and not return.
- **Elementary Drop-Off Policy (Preschool – 3rd Grade):** For the safety of our youngest riders, a parent, guardian, or designated adult must be visible at the stop during afternoon drop-off. If no adult is present, the driver will keep the student on board and return them to the school at the end of the route. Exception: A visible adult is not required if the student is accompanied off the bus at the same stop by an older sibling or family member in 4th grade or above.
- **Delay & Cancellation Alerts:** If you would like to receive text alerts for school delays and closings, text Yes to 67587 to be automatically enrolled. More information is available on our website under the Alert Notifications link from the homepage. School delays and cancellations are also published on hometownstations.com and spectrumnews1.com

We understand that the first few days might involve some adjustments. New students may be unfamiliar with their routes, and there might be minor delays as everyone settles back into the routine. Please be patient with us as we work to ensure a smooth transition.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding student transportation, or if you would be interested in becoming a school bus driver, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at hunsakerj@alleneastschools.org or by phone at 419-648-3333 ext. 1506.

We're looking forward to a great school year!



Allen East Local Schools

9105 Harding Highway
Harrod, OH 45850



Text Alerts

If you would like to receive text alerts for school delays and closings and general school information, text "Yes" to 67587 to be automatically enrolled. More information is available on our website under Alert Notifications.
www.alleneastschools.org

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The new school year officially begins on:
Monday, August 31, 2026.

Important School Day Information:

- **Doors Open:** 7:55 AM
- **Classes Begin:** 8:15 AM
- **Dismissal Times:**
 - **Elementary:** 2:50 PM
 - **Grades 5–12:** 3:00 PM

Please remember — mornings and afternoons can be busy with drop-offs and pick-ups. Stay patient, drive slowly, and be mindful of all children and staff.

Wishing everyone a safe and successful school year!

Open House

Stop in, meet your teachers, visit classrooms, and get your questions answered!

Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Time: 4:00 – 6:30 PM

Who will be there?

- Teachers
- Administrators
- Transportation Supervisor

SUBSTITUTES

Allen East is in need of substitutes for the 2026-2027 school year. We are looking for substitutes in the following areas: Teachers, Bus Drivers, Cooks, Custodians, Secretaries, and Aides.

Please contact Shannon Ackerman, Board Secretary, at 419-648-3333 ext. 1009 or via email at ackermans@alleneastschools.org for information on how to apply.

Mustang Breakfast for Residents 55+

Join us for a free community breakfast with live entertainment by our students.

Dates:

October 1 | November 5 | December 3

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Allen East Cafeteria

A big thank you to last year's sponsors: RightWay Foods, Dirk Rummel, Lost Creek, Lance Nickles & LifeWise Academy!



If school is canceled or delayed, breakfast will also be canceled.



ALLEN EAST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

AUGUST, 2026

Aug. 17 & 18 - Professional Development
Aug. 18 - OPEN HOUSE - All Grades 4:00pm - 6:30pm
Aug. 31 - 1st Day PK, 1-12

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2 - 1st Day for Kindergarten
Sept. 7 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
Sept. 8 - NO SCHOOL - Professional Development

OCTOBER

Oct. 15 - Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Oct. 16 - Parent Teacher Conference 7:30am - 12:00pm
Oct. 16 - NO SCHOOL PK-12
Oct. 30 - End of First Quarter

NOVEMBER

Nov. 25 - 27 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

Dec. 21 - Jan. 3 - NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

JANUARY, 2027

Jan. 15 - NO SCHOOL - Professional Development
Jan. 15 - End of Second Quarter
Jan. 18 - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

Feb. 15 - NO SCHOOL - President's Day

MARCH

Mar. 24 - End of Third Quarter
Mar. 25, 26 & 29 - NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

MAY

May 28 - Students Last Day / End of 4th Quarter
May 28 - End of Fourth Quarter

Start Time: K-12 - 8:15am

Dismissal: ELEM 2:50pm

Dismissal: MS & HS 3:00pm

Preschool Hours: Morning: 8-11am Afternoon: 12-3pm

Preschool Delay: Morning: 10-12pm Afternoon: 1-3pm

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1st/Last Days

No School

Graduation

Parent Teach Conf.

Ohio Immunization Summary for School Attendance, 2026-2027



Vaccine/Grade	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
DTaP Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	4 or more doses												
Hep B Hepatitis B	3 or more doses												
MMR Measles, Mumps, Rubella	2 doses												
Polio	3 or more doses												
Varicella (Chickenpox)	2 doses												
Tdap Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis									1 dose				
MCV4 Meningococcal ACWY									1st dose				2nd dose

Important Note:

For additional information, please refer to the Ohio Revised Code 3313.67 and 3313.671 and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director's Journal Entry regarding school immunization requirements, recommended vaccines, and exemptions to immunizations.



MUSTANG HEALTH CENTER

More Time in Class = Healthier, Happier Students

2 Hours and 58 Minutes Saved
Student appointments saved 2 hours and 58 minutes of classroom time by returning to class right after.



Mustang will be open from 7:30am - 4:00pm
We provide the following services at the Mustang Health Center:

- ✓ Sports & Work Physicals
- ✓ Sick Visits
- ✓ Age Appropriate Screenings
- ✓ Disease Management
- ✓ Immunizations
- ✓ Behavioral Health
- ✓ Wellness Visits
- ✓ And so much more...

We accept all Allen East students, their families, and staff. All insurances, no insurance or underinsured are accepted. We will never turn anyone away for an inability to pay.

We look forward to serving you at Allen East Local Schools!