

# Spotlight News: October 2026



Welcome to Spotlight News & Upcoming Events! Each month, we'll share the latest news, student and staff accomplishments, and memorable moments from across Yellow Springs Schools, along with important upcoming events and dates to keep our school community connected and informed.

Here's to a year of learning, growing, and moving forward together as Fearless Thinkers, thinking boldly, caring deeply, and advocating courageously!

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## ★ 4½ STARS! ★

Yellow Springs Schools earned an overall rating of 4½ stars on Ohio's latest School Report Card, meaning our district significantly exceeds state standards!

This recognition reflects the hard work and growth of our students, educators, staff, and families.

At YSS, success goes beyond a report card. It's about building confidence, compassion, durable skills, and opportunities that prepare our Fearless Thinkers for the future.

We're proud of our students and grateful to our entire YSS community!



## John W. Gudgel Court Dedication

Join us on Friday, November 13, at 6 p.m. as Yellow Springs Schools celebrates the dedication of the John W. Gudgel Court during Moonlight Madness Basketball at the YS Middle/High School Gymnasium.

For 46 years, John Gudgel has dedicated his life to Yellow Springs Schools as an alum, teacher, principal, counselor, and coach. His impact reaches generations of students, families, athletes, and colleagues, and we are proud to honor his remarkable legacy with a space that will serve our students and community for years to come.

Come help us celebrate!



### **FREE VIP Passes for Yellow Springs Senior Citizens!**

Yellow Springs residents age 65 and older are eligible for a FREE VIP pass to athletic home games.

How to get your pass:

- => Bring a valid ID showing your YS address
- => Pick up your pass at the YS Central Office, 888 Dayton Street, Unit 106



### **Save the Date: Ribbon Cuttings**

We're excited to celebrate the completion of our new and renovated school spaces with ribbon-cutting celebrations at both Mills Lawn and the Middle/High School!

**Friday, November 6, 2026:** Please save the date and plan to join us as we celebrate this exciting milestone for Yellow Springs Schools and our community. **More information, including times and event details, will be shared soon.**

# MILLS LAWN SCHOOL...



## Mills Lawn School Earns 4.5 Stars!

Mills Lawn School earned an impressive 4.5-star rating on Ohio's latest School Report Card! ★ This achievement reflects our students' academic growth and the dedication of our teachers and staff, who create meaningful learning experiences and provide the support every child needs to thrive.

## The Fall Bike Bus is rolling!

Over the past several weeks, students, families, and community members have come together to ride to school, build connections, and start their Wednesdays with some fresh air and movement.

Thank you to everyone who rides, volunteers, and helps make the Bike Bus a success. We love seeing our Fearless Thinkers roll into the school day together!

See you on the next ride! 🚲



## Mayor Steve McQueen Visits Mills Lawn

Mayor Steve McQueen is volunteering his time to visit Mills Lawn each week and read with a different kindergarten or first-grade class.

During his first visit, he shared a story with the students and even treated them to a few magic tricks!

Thank you for being an important part of our school community, Mayor McQueen! Photo Credit: Mikasa Simms



## Third Grade Scientists Take Flight!

Our third graders have been exploring the Monarch butterfly life cycle while connecting science and math through hands-on learning. Students created life-cycle models, practiced place value, and solved multi-digit addition and subtraction problems using butterfly-themed scenarios.

Their learning has even inspired a new idea: a butterfly garden on the recess playground! Students are brainstorming ways to create a space where they can observe eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, and butterflies firsthand.

We love seeing our Fearless Thinkers turn curiosity into action! Photo Credit: Megan Feola



## **MLS Celebrates Start With Hello**

Last week, our Fearless Thinkers took meaningful steps to build connection, kindness, and belonging throughout our school community.

Small moments of connection can make a big difference. By starting with hello, we're creating a community where everyone feels seen, welcomed, and valued.

Photo Credit: Colleen Green and Maya Luney-Ballew



## **Welcome to the Rounding Museum!**

Our 3rd-grade mathematicians have been hard at work learning to round numbers to the nearest ten, hundred, and thousand! After practicing together, working independently, and playing rounding games, students put their learning into action by becoming artists and creating their own Rounding Sculptures.

To celebrate their hard work, our kindergarten students toured the Rounding Museum, exploring the sculptures and enjoying a special, hands-on math experience!

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# YS MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL...



## Yellow Springs Middle/High School Earns 4 Stars!

Yellow Springs Middle/High School earned a 4-star rating on Ohio's latest School Report Card! This recognition reflects our students' academic growth and the dedication of educators who challenge students, build meaningful relationships, and provide support for success. With more than 70% of graduates typically pursuing two- or four-year colleges and every graduate completing an Individual Career and Academic Plan and a data-informed Career Capstone Experience, YSHS is committed to preparing students for life beyond graduation.

## Into the Wild Tradition Continues!

Last week, our 7th-grade students embarked on their Into the Wild adventure! Over three days, students learned alongside their teachers and principal through an interdisciplinary experience that took learning beyond the classroom.

From riding the Little Miami Bike Trail to participating in hands-on learning experiences, students explored, collaborated, and problem-solved while putting their learning into action. All activities connected to Ohio's Learning Standards, bringing classroom concepts to life in meaningful ways.

What a great opportunity for our Fearless Thinkers to learn through adventure, teamwork, and discovery!



## Start with Hello Week!

Our students celebrated Start with Hello Week last week by welcoming new students with personal messages, learning about being an upstander, capturing fun memories, and thanking their Trusted Adults.

The week ended with our "Start with Hello, End with a Friend Games!" Students teamed up for hilarious group challenges, with our seniors taking home the win!

A simple hello can spark a friendship and remind everyone they belong.



## Investing in Their Future: Gifted Savings Returns to YSHS!

Gifted Savings is back at Yellow Springs High School for a second year! All 46 members of the Class of 2027 have the opportunity to start their senior year with a \$1,000 investment portfolio and financial education to help them build a strong financial future.

As the only Gifted Savings school in Ohio, YSHS is proud to provide every senior with this real-world learning opportunity, regardless of their family's financial circumstances.

A big thank-you to the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, community members, and our anonymous donor for making this opportunity possible!

# UPCOMING EVENTS...



## Week of Oct. 1–2

- Thu, Oct. 1 – MLS/MS: Fall Picture Day (K–8) Fri,
- Oct. 2 – MS/HS: Fall Pep Rally



## Week of Oct. 7–10

- Wed, Oct. 7 – MLS: Fall Bike Bus
- Fri, Oct. 9 – MLS: Vision Clinic
- Sat, Oct. 10 – Yellow Springs Street Fair



## Week of Oct. 12–16

- Mon, Oct. 12 – MLS: Vision Clinic
- Wed, Oct. 14 – MLS: Fall Bike Bus
- Wed, Oct. 14 – Board of Education Regular Meeting (5:30–7:30 p.m.) Thu, Oct.
- 15 – HS: PSAT for 10th and 11th Grade
- Fri, Oct. 16 – NO SCHOOL/NO STAFF
- Fri, Oct. 16 – HS: Homecoming Dance (7–11 p.m.)



## Week of Oct. 19–23

- Mon, Oct. 19 – NO SCHOOL/NO STAFF
- Tue, Oct. 20 – NO SCHOOL/Professional Development for Staff
- Wed, Oct. 21–23 – National School Bus Safety Week
- Wed, Oct. 21 – SECOND QUARTER BEGINS
- Wed, Oct. 21 – MLS: Fall Bike Bus
- Wed, Oct. 21 – HS: Fall Picture Re-takes
- Wed, Oct. 21 – Board of Education Work Session (Tentative, 5:30–7:30 p.m.)



## Week of Oct. 27–30

- Tue, Oct. 27 – MLS: Third Grade Fall English/Language Arts State Testing (Day 1/2)
- Wed, Oct. 28 – MLS: Third Grade Fall English/Language Arts State Testing (Day 2/2)
- Wed, Oct. 28 – MLS: Fall Bike Bus
- Fri, Oct. 30 – MLS: Costume and Pajama Day