



Early Learning Preschool Newsletter

2026-2027 Edition

OCTOBER 19, 2026

Principal's Message

Hello Preschool Families!

Each month, our preschool teachers have the special joy of recognizing one Mini Mustang from their classroom. These students are celebrated for showing growth in their own unique way—whether it's improved whole body listening, new skills they've been working hard on, or progress that's meaningful to their individual journey.

Every single child in our preschool is doing wonderful things every day! This Mini Mustang recognition is simply one way we spotlight different students throughout the year so that each child gets a moment to shine. We're so proud of all our learners and can't wait to celebrate your child when their turn comes!

As always, do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or need support throughout the school year! I can be reached via phone (440-572-7046) or email (cvanderhoff@scsmustangs.org)

Sincerely,
Mrs. Ciara Vanderhoff, Principal



Upcoming Dates & Events

Community Trunk or Treat





Community Town Hall



Make plans to join SCS District Administrators and Board of Education members at the Community Town Hall on Tuesday, October 20th at Strongsville Middle School's Auditorium. The Community Town Hall begins at 6:00pm and is your chance to get the facts about the SCS Operating Levy (Issue 9) that will be on the November 3 ballot. A Q&A session will also be part of the night.

Issue 9 (SCS Operating Levy) Info

Strongsville City Schools is asking voters to consider a 6.7-mill operating levy on the November 3, 2026 ballot (Issue 9). It is a five-year limited levy, meaning it expires and returns to voters every five years, rather than continuing indefinitely. If approved, this operating levy would fund the implementation of The Plan to Protect Our Core.

The 6.7 mills combine an existing levy with new revenue:

- 3.4 mills renews an operating levy Strongsville voters originally approved in 2002. This is revenue already being provided by taxpayers and used by our District to support daily operating costs, totaling approximately \$8.3 million each year.
- 3.3 mills provides new operating revenue that would generate approximately \$7.5 million each year, replacing a renewal that voters did not approve in 2024 that generated \$9.7 million annually.
- ***This combination of mills reduces revenue collected by \$2.2 million, representing a lower tax rate in 2027 than in 2024.***

Click **HERE** for Dr. Ryba's slide presentation from the September 10, 2026 Board of Education meeting outlining The Plan to Protect the Core details and the financial impact on our District.

For additional information about Issue 9 and The Plan to Protect Our Core, please visit **scsmustangs.org/Issue9**



Mustang Spotlight

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Bob Snowberger has worked at Strongsville City Schools for 28 years. He started in our District as a bus driver, then worked 3rd shift as a custodian at SHS where he eventually moved into an Assistant Head Custodian position. Bob spent several years as Head Custodian at Kinsner Elementary before moving to his current position as Head Custodian at our Early Learning Preschool.

"I have made a lot of friends over the years working at the different buildings. Being the Head Custodian at our preschool is so much more than just a job - it is a role that allows me to make a meaningful difference every single day. Working alongside our dedicated staff makes the experience even more rewarding. Every day, I watch our preschool staff pour their hearts into guiding, comforting, and educating the youngest students. I am truly amazed by their tireless efforts to help and assist these very young students. Being able to support them in whatever way I can is a privilege. Knowing that my daily work directly protects them from germs, keeps their spaces clean, and ensures their classrooms are safe gives me a sense of satisfaction. I take great pride in creating a spotless, welcoming environment where parents feel secure leaving their children for a few hours."

"Our staff treats me as a vital, respected member of the school family. Whether it is a teacher expressing gratitude for a quick cleanup or checking in on how my day is going, the mutual respect we share makes our preschool a joy to walk into each morning. We always have each other's backs, turning the daily routine into a collaborative, uplifting partnership."

"Children notice consistency and kindness. Being a trusted, familiar adult whom the kids greet with bright smiles and the staff relies on for support is incredibly fulfilling. I am not just maintaining a building; I am helping to build a warm, safe community where everyone - staff and students alike - can thrive."

Thank you Bob Snowberger for your efforts in making the Early Learning Preschool a great environment for our 'Mini Mustangs.' **#ModelMustang**

Communicable Disease & Illness Reminder

If your child is diagnosed with a communicable disease or illness (example: pink eye, hand foot mouth disease, strep throat, etc) you **must** notify the school office!

Communicable Disease & Illness

Preschool programs are **required** by the state to follow rules set forth in the Ohio Revised Code including the monitoring of illness and symptoms potentially related to a communicable disease.

Our school clinic will immediately notify you if your child is observed with signs or symptoms of illness. Certain symptoms will result in immediate discharge from school and may require a doctor's note to return.

The infographic displays seven symptoms of communicable diseases, each with a corresponding illustration of a child:

- COUGH:** A boy coughing into his elbow.
- EYE DISCHARGE:** A girl holding her eye.
- FEVER:** A girl holding her forehead.
- RASH:** A girl with a red rash on her face.
- SORE THROAT:** A girl holding her throat.
- STOMACH ACHE:** A boy holding his stomach.
- CHILLS OR BODY ACHES:** A girl shivering.

We may also ask you to pick up your child if they display "mildly ill" symptoms. Final discretion remains with the school.

This is for the safety of your child and all others in our school community.

Thank you!

Preschool programs are **required** by the state to follow rules set forth in the Ohio Revised Code including the monitoring of illness and symptoms potentially related to a communicable disease.

Our school clinic will immediately notify you if your child is observed with signs or symptoms of illness. Certain symptoms will result in immediate discharge from school and may require a doctor's note to return.

We may also ask you to pick up your child if they display "mildly ill" symptoms and cannot participate in normal classroom activities. Final discretion remains with the school.

Home to School Connection



**Parenting Comes With Challenges.
Triple P is Here to Help!**

Are parenting challenges like tantrums, power struggles at bedtimes or mealtimes, or other behaviors causing problems? Worried about your child's future and emotional wellbeing? Do you just want family life to run more smoothly?

For more than 40 years, the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program – has been used by families all over the U.S. and has been proven to work. And the best part is, it's **FREE** in Ohio.

Getting started takes only 5 minutes...and the benefits last a lifetime!

Now, you can get a whole toolkit of effective positive parenting strategies – **FREE!**

Families may sign up for the free online program at:
www.triplep-parenting.com/oh-en/triple-p/



Thanks to a partnership with the Governor's Children's Initiative, Ohio Department of Children and Youth, and the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, the Triple P Positive Parenting Program is **FREE to all Ohio families.**



Positive Parenting Strategies

Meet our Team!

Each newsletter, I will introduce you to a few of our staff members. Although they may not work directly with your child, they are a part of our school community and a friendly face that your child sees in our building. We want our students to know and trust as many adults in our building as possible; as well as you!

**Dina Halaa, Special Education Aide @ Lunn Rd**

I have been working in preschool for 5 years. I am married and have 3 girls who go to Strongsville city schools. I like traveling and hanging out with my family and friends. I truly love watching our little learners grow and explore new things every single day.

**Chris Schwall, Special Education Aide @ Chapman**

Hi, I'm Chris Schwall, also known as Miss Chris!

I'm proud to have been part of the Strongsville City Schools community for the past five years. Before that, I worked in Highland and Brunswick Schools. I truly enjoy being part of this community and making a positive, meaningful contribution to the lives of those around me.

I've been happily married to my incredible husband for 34 years, and together we have three grown children and, for now, a few adorable fur grandbabies!

In my free time, I enjoy playing tennis, and during school breaks, my husband and I love to cruise and explore the many beautiful places around the world.

Reminders (Repeated)

Our School Schedule

Both preschool locations are in session Monday- Thursday. There is no school on Friday's. If your child will be absent or you need to report any pertinent information to the office, please contact 440-572-7046.

Lunn Road Preschool Hours:

AM Session: 8:00am-10:35am

PM Session: 11:25am-2:00pm

Chapman Preschool Hours:

AM Session: 8:10am-10:45am

PM Session: 11:40am-2:15pm

REMINDER

Please be on time to drop off and
pick up your child!

Thank you!

Car Line Reminders

1. Make sure your child is unbuckled and ready to exit the vehicle.
2. Adults stay inside of the vehicle. Staff members will assist your child in and out of the car.
3. Stay in the car line. DO NOT drive around other cars unless you are waved on by a staff member.
4. SLOW DOWN!



- 1** Make sure your child is unbuckled and ready to exit the vehicle.



- 2** Adults stay inside of the vehicle. Staff members will assist your child in and out of the car.



- 3** Stay in the car line. DO NOT drive around other cars unless you are waved on by a staff member.



- 4** SLOW DOWN!

Change of Clothes

All students need to have a change of clothes (including underwear) at school. These items should be in a bag labeled with your child's name. Accidents happen and this ensures that your child can continue on with their day. If your child has no extra clothes at school, we will call you to drop off items or pick them up from school.

Change of Clothes



- Students should have an extra pair of clothes, including underwear, at school.
- Place your child's items in a ziplog bag and label with their name. If we use the extra pair, send in another!



If your child does not have a change of clothes, you will be required to drop a pair off or pick them up if they have an accident.

Snack Reminder

Label your child's snack with their name!

Snack Requirements



- Students should pack **one** individual snack daily. **Do not** pack multiple options or lunch.
- Snack items should be **nut free** and processed in a nut free facility. Any item containing nuts will be sent home.

Recommended Snack Options

Fresh Fruit or Vegetables			
String Cheese			
Crackers			
Pretzels			
Applesauce Pouch			



Parent Resource Hub

Early Learning Preschool Parent Resources				
Social-Emotional Skills	Early Literacy Skills	Early Numeracy Skills	Language Development	Self-Regulation Skills
Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills Social-Emotional Skills	Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills Early Literacy Skills	Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills Early Numeracy Skills	Language Development Language Development Language Development Language Development Language Development Language Development Language Development Language Development Language Development Language Development	Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills Self-Regulation Skills

We have created a parent resource "hub" that includes many valuable resources for families as they navigate their child's preschool experience. I encourage you to utilize this resource when you require more information on topics such as developmental milestones, social emotional development, and community resources. This resource is updated periodically.

Click Here for "Hub"

SCS Academic Calendar (Aug- Oct)

Strongsville City Schools 2026-27 Academic Calendar																							
AUGUST (14/10)							SEPTEMBER (21/21)							OCTOBER (22/20)									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S			
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
30	31						Sept 7 - Labor Day							Oct 8 - Grs. PreK-12 Parent/Teacher Conf.									
Aug 6-7 - New Teacher Orientation							Sept 30 - Grs. 6-12 Parent/Teacher Conf. / School in Session							Oct 9 - No School / Conference Comp Day									
Aug 12 - Teacher Work Day														Oct 14 - PreK-5 Parent/Teacher Conf. / School in Session									
Aug 13 - Convocation														Oct 16 - End of 1st Quarter (Grs. 6-12)									
Aug 14 & 17 - Staff Professional Development Day																							
Aug 18- First Day for Grs. 1-9 / Kdg. Orientation																							
Aug 19 - First Day for Preschool / Kdg. / Grs. 10-12																							

[View Full Calendar Here](#)