
Fall 2026 • Volume 18 • Issue 1

Homecoming 2026



Homecoming weekend at Wooster High School showcased the energy and spirit of the Wooster Generals. Festivities kicked off Friday afternoon with a pep rally recognizing and celebrating the senior athletes on this fall's sports teams.

That evening, the Generals defeated New Philadelphia 17-10 in an exciting Homecoming football game. The Wooster High School choir added to the occasion with moving performances of the national anthem and the alma mater, and Dane Kuzma and Brooklyn Johnston were crowned the 2026 Homecoming King and Queen.

The weekend wrapped up Saturday night with the Homecoming dance, themed "Through the Looking Glass." From start to finish, the celebration was full of school spirit, tradition and memories that truly reflected what it means to be a General.

Wooster City Schools thanks the staff, students and community members who helped make this year's Homecoming weekend one to remember.

Superintendent's Message



Dear Wooster Community,

Welcome to the Fall 2026 edition of our community newsletter! As we settle into another school year, I am proud to share some incredible milestones that reflect the hard work of our students, staff and families.

This summer, the Board of Education officially approved our 2026-2030

Strategic Plan. Developed after months of listening sessions and community feedback from across our district, this four-year roadmap will guide our decision-making and priorities to ensure every student thrives. We are also celebrating a historic achievement: Wooster City Schools earned a 4.5-star overall rating on the 2026 Ohio School Report Card, the highest in district history.

This fall, we have begun a new video series on finance that will focus on a different aspect of school funding each month. I hope you'll tune in to these interviews with Treasurer Amy Welty to learn more about our district finances and the factors that affect school funding.

In this issue, you will also find updates on our ongoing facilities planning and our new elementary configuration plan beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to our schools.

Go Woo!

Gabe Tudor

Superintendent, Wooster City Schools

2026-2030 Strategic Plan

<div>1</div> <div>Goal 1: Empower Every Student Through Engaging and Relevant Academic Experiences</div> <div>Elevate instructional excellence so all students are consistently challenged by high-level curriculum and supported by personalized pathways to future readiness.</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Goal 2: Cultivate Safe, Inclusive, and Supportive School Environments</div> <div>Promote school environments where students and staff feel safe, respected, and connected.</div>
<div>3</div> <div>Goal 3: Invest in Staff Growth, Well-being, and Empowerment</div> <div>Support staff through meaningful professional development and strong workplace conditions while building a cohesive district culture.</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Goal 4: Foster Trust Through Transparent and Consistent Communication</div> <div>Strengthen understanding and trust through clear, consistent, and accessible communication.</div>
<div>5</div> <div>Goal 5: Forge Strong Family and Community Partnerships to Enrich Student Opportunities</div> <div>Build meaningful relationships with families and community partners to expand student experiences and opportunities.</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Goal 6: Support Safe, Healthy, and Fiscally Responsible Learning Environments</div> <div>Improve school facilities to support safe, healthy, and future-ready learning environments.</div>

At its July 2026 meeting, the Wooster City Schools Board of Education approved the district’s 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, a four-year roadmap that sets the district’s goals and priorities and reflects input from students, staff, families and community members.

The approval concluded a six-month process facilitated by The Impact Group, a firm specializing in strategic planning and community engagement for school districts. The plan will guide district decision-making, priorities and resource allocation through 2030, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Development of the strategic plan began with an in-depth listening

process throughout the spring. Community engagement included:

- Two SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analyses with the Board of Education and the district leadership team
- 13 focus groups with students, staff, parents and community members
- 174 staff survey responses
- 595 parent and community survey responses
- Five one-on-one interviews with key community partners and leaders

Feedback from this engagement was analyzed to identify common

themes and priorities, which were used to shape the plan’s goals and objectives. The district leadership team and Board of Education then refined the framework into six goals, each with supporting objectives to guide annual action planning and implementation.

The district will monitor progress on the goals and provide regular updates to the Board of Education and community throughout the life of the plan.

The full 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, along with the community engagement summary and survey results, is available at woostercityschools.org/district-info/strategic-plan.

2	13	174	595	5
SWOT analyses	focus groups	staff survey responses	parent and community survey responses	one-on-one interviews

2026 Ohio School Report Card Rating

2026 STATE REPORT CARD RATING	
OVERALL RATING:	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Achievement	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Progress	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Gap Closing	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Graduation	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Early Literacy	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Wooster City Schools has earned a 4.5-star overall rating on the 2026 Ohio School Report Card, improving from the district’s 4-star rating last year and marking the highest overall rating in the district’s history.

The district saw growth across three key components of the report card. Achievement increased from 3 to 4 stars, and Graduation improved from 4 to 5 stars. College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness also increased from 3 to 4 stars.

The results reflect the continued efforts of Wooster City Schools staff, students, families and community partners to support student learning and prepare students for success beyond graduation.

Full district and school building report cards are available on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce website at reportcard.education.ohio.gov.

Facilities Planning

At its May 19 meeting, the Wooster City Schools Board of Education approved a new elementary configuration plan that includes adding modular classrooms at Parkview and Melrose elementary schools and organizing elementary buildings by grade level beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

This decision represents a meaningful step in an ongoing story. Over the past several years, families, staff, residents and district leaders have engaged in honest conversations about the future of school facilities. Those discussions have included questions, feedback, concerns and ideas from across the community. While perspectives have varied, one priority has consistently brought everyone back to the table: ensuring Wooster students learn in safe, effective environments that support their growth and success.

The modular classrooms are intended as a temporary solution. They address immediate student needs while giving the district time to continue planning for long-term facilities solutions. They also reflect the reality that facilities planning is not a single decision but an ongoing process shaped by community input, financial conditions and evolving student needs.

Feedback from across the district continues to shape the conversation, alongside a shared focus on student learning, strong schools and responsible stewardship of community resources. Families and residents are encouraged to stay engaged by attending board meetings, sharing input or viewing meeting recordings on the Wooster City Schools website.

Elementary Configuration Plan

Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, all preschool and kindergarten students will attend Kean, all first- and second-grade students will attend Melrose and all third- and fourth-grade students will attend Parkview. Grades 5-12 will remain unchanged at Edgewood Middle School and Wooster High School.

The grade-banded model will increase teacher collaboration, promote student equity, provide greater clarity for future planning and improve districtwide efficiencies. This transition will also create more consistent educational opportunities for students across the district and allow for more targeted student support at each grade level.

The district has been thoroughly evaluating transportation, communication and school procedures to help make the transition as smooth as possible for families. District administrators have also spent considerable time examining how leadership teams should be structured. Leadership assignments for current elementary principals and assistant principals have been made to best match their experience and strengths to the needs of each school and its students.

While students may attend different elementary buildings, the district remains committed to maintaining welcoming school environments and strong connections between families, staff and school communities. To learn more about the elementary configuration plan, visit woostercityschools.org/district-info/2027-2028-elementary-configuration-plan.



Wooster City School District
144 North Market Street
Wooster, OH 44691

Board of Education

Jody Starcher, President
Rik Goodright, Vice President
Clayton Deighan, Member
Joy Kleinhenz, Member
Bonnie Nair, Member

Administration

Gabe Tudor, Superintendent
Amy Welty, Treasurer

Finance

This fall, Wooster City Schools launched an ongoing series of interviews designed to help the community better understand how the district is funded. Each month, in a special edition of “Tudor Talks: Inside Woo,” Superintendent Gabe Tudor and Treasurer Amy Welty will discuss a different piece of school finance, including where district funding comes from and the state laws that shape the budget. Visit the district YouTube channel or Facebook page to watch the monthly interviews.

Scan the QR code for additional information about district finances.



Be in the know and stay connected!

Scan the QR code to access the district communications page and stay up to date on the latest news from Wooster City Schools.



Important Dates

November

- 9** High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 10** High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
Edgewood Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11** Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
Edgewood Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 12** End of First Trimester (Grades K-4)
- 13** No School: Release Day for Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 25-27** No School: Thanksgiving Break

December

- 11** Preschool Day of Attendance
- 18** End of Second Quarter (Grades 5-12)
- 21** No School: Winter Break Begins

January

- 4** School Resumes
- 18** No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 22** Preschool Day of Attendance