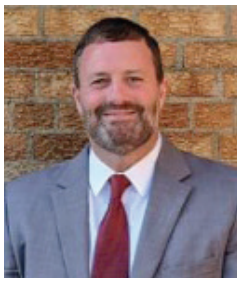
THE Newark CITY SCHOOLS PAW PRINT

Fall 2026

A Message from the Superintendent



Before you dive into this issue, I want to share some personal news. After seven years with Newark City Schools, I have accepted a professional opportunity outside of public education, and my last day as superintendent will be Dec. 31. This was not an easy decision, and I am grateful for the chance to have served this community.

It has been a great fall, thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of our students, staff and families. From classrooms to athletic fields and performance spaces, there is a lot happening across Newark City Schools.

In this issue of the "Paw Print," you'll learn about some of the new opportunities available to our students, including our new guitar-building class, where students are putting hands-on skills to work. You'll also get a look at the Licking Memorial Health Center as it begins its first full year serving our students, families and staff.

Of course, we're also proud of the accomplishments happening throughout our district. The Pride of Newark is headed back to the state marching band finals for the 46th consecutive season, our student-athletes are making their mark, and students across our schools are learning in creative and meaningful ways every day.

We also want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete our community survey about how you receive information from Newark City Schools, how you prefer to receive updates and what topics matter most to you. Your feedback will help us improve how we communicate with our community. Scan the QR code to take the survey. Please note: if you are a staff member or parent/guardian of a current Newark Schools student, you will receive a separate survey.

Our Board of Education will share next steps for the leadership transition soon. Thank you for being part of our Community of Opportunity and Learning. I will always be proud to be part of this community and will keep cheering on the Wildcats!

David Lewis
Superintendent

Health Center Launches for First Full Year

The Licking Memorial Health Center at Newark City Schools officially opened its doors shortly before the school year began.

The Health Center is located at the former Woodside Elementary building and provides convenient access to healthcare for students, families and staff members.

Services focus on preventative care and include treatment for common illnesses. Students can also receive athletic physicals and required vaccines for school.

Scan the QR code for hours or to schedule an appointment.

Once Upon a Homecoming

Our Wildcats had a fun-filled homecoming week filled with Spirit days, a parade, a 59-33 win over Logan High School and dancing the night away at the Once Upon a Homecoming-themed dance.



The Pride of Newark Band, floats, and more fill this year's homecoming parade.



Our junior cats showcasing their spirit.





Homecoming Court is celebrated before the naming of this year's queen and king!
**Photos courtesy of SEC Imaging*

A Note from the Treasurer



How does Newark City Schools receive its funding? How do changes in state funding and property taxes affect our schools? And how do we make decisions about how those dollars are spent?

School finance can be complicated, but understanding the basics is important to understanding how our district operates. Ohio's school funding system continues to evolve, and recent changes to property tax laws have added new questions for school districts and taxpayers across the state.

Beginning soon, Newark City Schools will share a new series on social media to help answer some of these questions and provide a closer look at school finance. We'll explain where our funding comes from, how those dollars are used and what changes at the state level could mean for Newark.

Our goal is to make school finance easier to understand and give our community the information it needs to stay informed about the financial decisions that affect our schools.

Julio Valladares
Treasurer

Serving on the Front Lines



For many people, Sept. 11, 2001, is a day they remember clearly — where they were, what they were doing and when they first heard the news.

For Newark City Schools Board Member Joe Quackenbush, the day unfolded on the front lines. Quackenbush was working at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as an instructor in the Army's practical nurse course when the Pentagon was attacked. Within 20 minutes, he was placed in charge of a team of doctors, nurses and nursing students and deployed to the Pentagon.

As the team arrived, they were ordered to run when another plane was believed to be heading toward Washington. Once the area was cleared, Quackenbush's team established triage stations near the Pentagon, where they treated firefighters for smoke inhalation.

Quackenbush reflected on the experience in a September 2002 issue of "The Advocate," saying, "I can remember it like it was yesterday." He also shared how the experience changed his perspective, saying, "I'm a lot nicer to people. I don't let the small stuff bother me any more."


9/11's impact hits home
Three men, three stories of lives changed by terror

As our nation marked the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11 this year, Newark City Schools remembered those who lost their lives and honored those who responded and served. We are grateful to Mr. Quackenbush for his service to our country and our community.

Newark Schools Welcomes New Leadership

Newark City Schools is excited to welcome new leadership this year.



Scott Beery
Principal, Alternative Academy

Education: Ohio Wesleyan University and Ashland University

Background: Mr. Beery most recently served as middle school principal and superintendent at Licking Valley Local Schools. Before that, he worked at Newark City Schools as a teacher and coach for 19 years.

Getting to Know Mr. Beery: Hobbies include spending time with family, running and working.

"I am excited to return to Newark City Schools where I started my career and to serve our students, staff and community in this new position. The opportunity to work directly with students was too good to pass up!"



Kyra Schloenbach
Director of Student Services

Education: The University of Toledo, Kent State University and Ohio Dominican University

Background: Mrs. Schloenbach started her career as a speech language pathologist for Adena Health System before working for Columbus City Schools for nine years. Then, she served as Special Education Coordinator for Licking Heights Local Schools. She joined Newark City Schools two years ago.

Getting to Know Mrs. Schloenbach: She lives in Granville with her husband, two children, two dogs, one cat and a team of ducks.

"I'm especially excited to build strong relationships and strengthen our collaboration across Newark City Schools so that every student feels valued and capable of growth and every team member feels empowered to support them."



Renee Derr
Principal, Liberty Middle School

Education: The Ohio State University

Background: Ms. Derr has been teaching for Newark City Schools since 2000.

Getting to Know Ms. Derr: When she isn't working, Ms. Derr enjoys spending time with her family.

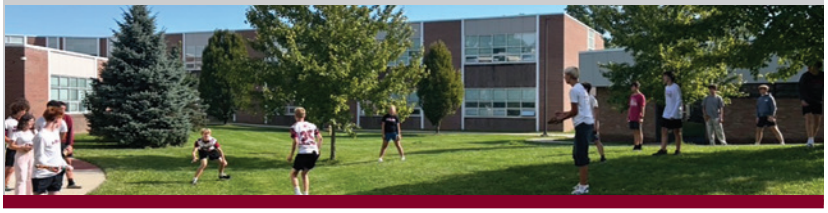
"Although in a different role, I'm excited to be back at Liberty Middle School where I spent so many years as the art teacher. I'm looking forward to building relationships with the staff, students, families and Newark community."

Around Campus

Baseball With a Twist

Spanish 2 students are learning that baseball can look a little different around the world. As part of a unit on sports, they learned about the popularity of baseball in the Dominican Republic and how people have created their own versions of the game using everyday materials.

After watching how-to videos from Latino MLB players, students made their own baseball gloves and put them to the test in a game. The hands-on activity gave students a chance to practice Spanish while exploring how a familiar sport can bring people together in different cultures.





Connecting School to the Real World

The Newark High School Card Show is bridging the gap between collectors and the next generation of business leaders. Held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month in the Newark High School Commons, the show offers free admission and is open to the entire community.

It brings together collectors and hobbyists while supporting the Newark High School DECA team, a student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

Current Newark High School students can reserve a free vendor table to buy, sell and trade sports cards, Pokémon merchandise and other memorabilia, putting real-world concepts like supply and demand, negotiation and inventory management into practice. Community members are welcome to purchase a table where they can sell their own cards, memorabilia and collectibles. To reserve a vendor table, contact Matt Frischen at 740-641-7625 or mfrischen@newarkcityschools.org.

Proceeds from table sales support DECA students as they prepare for competitive events, including travel and registration expenses.



Students Build Guitars From the Ground Up

For the first time, Newark High School students are building their own guitars as part of a new hands-on class. The course builds on a summer guitar-building camp offered for the past three years and brings shop skills back to the high school.

Students are learning to shape, sand and assemble their instruments, with each student expected to have a fully operational guitar by winter break.

Newark High School is seeking community sponsors to help continue the program. Interested organizations or individuals can contact Newark High School for more information.



Letters With Shaving Cream

Ms. Hersey's fourth and fifth graders are perfecting their letter shapes and sounds with the help of shaving cream! They make the letters, then practice the sound the letters make.

Third Graders Setting Goals Early



Third graders in Mrs. Raugh's class listened to a read aloud of "The Magical Yet," talked about what they can't do yet but hope to learn this school year, and made their own "yet" as a physical reminder that even if they can't do something yet to keep trying.

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Newark City Schools Board of Education



Joe Quackenbush
Cindy Neely
Tom Bline

Daniel Hunt
Mark Christenberry



Arts and Athletics

Pride of Newark Band State Bound

For the 46th consecutive season, the Pride of Newark has qualified for the state marching band finals after earning a Superior rating at the Licking Heights Pageant of Bands. Congratulations to our talented musicians, directors and supporters on this incredible tradition of excellence.

Fall Athletes Make Their Mark



Newark runners kicked off the season at the annual Wildcat Cross Country Invitational.



Photo: SEC Imaging

Kolton Peterson scored his 35th touchdown on senior night against Lancaster, becoming Newark's all-time leading scorer. He also finished his high school career as the leading rusher in Wildcat history.



Wildcat girls tennis defeated Wilmington High School 5-0 at the Cincinnati Open.

Recognition and Awards

Perfect State Test Results Announced

Congratulations to the following students, who received perfect scores on their Ohio state tests last spring. They were recognized at a recent board meeting.

6th Grade Math
Vincent Drake
Anden Dutiel
Walter Hand

7th Grade Math
Aria Roy
Lincoln Tharp

8th Grade Math
Hunter Nott
Charles Quick

8th Grade Science
Nickalus Schumaker

Geometry
Logan Boeshart
Vedder Embree

American History
Shawn Aber
Simon Redrow
Colten Miller

Government
Dayana Phillips
Cameron Wereley

10th Grade ELA
Analeigh Roy



Important Dates

Nov. 14-15	The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical
Nov. 19	Fall Band Concert
Nov. 25	No School (Parent-Teacher Conference Exchange Day)
Nov. 26-27	No School (Thanksgiving Vacation)
Dec. 8	Jazz Christmas Concert
Dec. 10	Newark High School Music Department Christmas Concert
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	No School (Holiday Break)