November/December 2026

Purple Pride

Published to bring school news to the residents of East Knox Local School District

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear East Knox Families,

At East Knox, we are committed to creating opportunities that help every student succeed. We are proud to celebrate our strong Ohio School Report Card results and the continued progress of our district.

This year, nearly $290,000 in grant funding will help us strengthen literacy and mathematics instruction, provide additional student supports, expand career exploration opportunities, and add new exploratory experiences for students in grades 7-12. These investments align directly with our Strategic Plan and our commitment to preparing students for lifelong excellence.

We are also excited to launch Bulldog Buddies, East Knox's new volunteer program. Parents, grandparents, retired educators, community members, students, and business partners are invited to share their time and talents with our schools. Whether reading with students, assisting in classrooms, or supporting special events, Bulldog Buddies can make a lasting difference. Scan the QR code included in this letter to learn more and sign up.

Finally, work continues on our new elementary playground. As part of this project, we are offering Buddy Bench Sponsorships. Each Buddy Bench costs $1,000, and multiple sponsors may partner together to share the cost. These benches will celebrate kindness, inclusion, and friendship while leaving a lasting legacy for East Knox students. Scan the QR code included in this letter for sponsorship information.

Thank you for your continued support of East Knox Local Schools. Together, we are building opportunities, strengthening connections, and creating a bright future for our students.

School District Phone: 740-599-7000

Elementary (K-6 grades)
23081 Coshocton Road
Howard, OH 43028
Mrs. Melissa Moreland, Principal
Mr. David Coleman, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Amanda Wilson, Building Secretary, x3002
Mrs. Krista Reese, Office Secretary, x3003
Nurse, Mrs. Tessa Hedrick, x3006

Junior/Senior High School (7-12 grades)
23227 Coshocton Road
Howard, OH 43028
Mrs. Shannon Sprang, Principal
Mr. Tyler Guilliams, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Jaimye Weaver, Building Secretary, x2002
Mrs. Brianna Hickman, Attendance/A.D. Secretary, x2003
Mrs. Julia Kelly, Guidance Counselor, x2008
Mrs. Alicia Simmons, Guidance Secretary, x2004
Nurse, Mrs. Jennifer O'Hara, x2006

Student Services/Special Ed. Department
Dr. Ben Snedeker, Diretor/Coordinator, x1008
Miss Kathleen Herrmann, Secretary, x1088

Transportation Supervisor, Ms. Angela Wells, X1016

East Knox Board Office
23201 Coshocton Road
Howard, OH 43028
Mr. Richard Baird, Superintendent
Mrs. Kim Grindle, Superintendent Secretary, x1002
Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, CPA, Treasurer, x1003
Mrs. Tracy Beckett, Assistant Treasurer, x1005

Board Members
Ms. Lindsay Bush, President
Mr. Randy Reese, Vice-President
Mr. Josh Beltz, Member
Mr. Alan Huffman, Member
Mrs. Melissa Tomlinson, Member

Check us out at:
www.ekschools.org or Facebook.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



East Knox Local Schools

Read with Students. Help in classrooms. Make a difference.

- Parents
- Community Members
- Retired Educators
- High School Students
- College Students
- Business Partners

How to Get Started

1. Sign up online
2. Complete fingerprinting and a short training
3. Get matched with a classroom

Scan QR Code

Help with fingerprint costs may be available.

Questions? Contact your school's main office.

Responsible Financial Management Brings Tax Relief to Our Community

A Decade of Progress: Thank You, East Knox Taxpayers. In November 2016, the district passed a $1.2 million emergency levy, which enabled East Knox to be released from Fiscal Emergency in 2017. Over the past ten years, the Board of Education and district administration have worked diligently to improve the district's financial position through responsible financial management and careful planning. As a result of these efforts, along with significant changes in Ohio property tax laws and other recent legislation impacting public school districts, the Board of Education elected not to renew the levy when it expired in 2026.

Beginning in 2027, local property owners will realize the tax savings associated with the expiration of this levy. The district is proud to be able to provide this tax relief and sincerely grateful to the taxpayers who supported East Knox over the past ten years. Their investment in our schools helped provide the financial stability needed to move the district forward, and we do not take that support for granted. Thank you for your continued investment in our students, our schools, and our community.



Miss Kelley Goes to Nationals - Representing East Knox FCCLA



A huge congratulations to **Bella Kelley** for earning 1st place in the Sustainability Challenge at the Ohio State Leadership Conference and representing East Knox FCCLA at the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.! As the only student from Knox County to qualify for Nationals this year, Bella presented her winning sustainability speech on the national stage and took part in leadership workshops alongside peers from across the country.

The East Knox FCCLA Chapter would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors, Apple Valley Storage and the East Knox Lions Club, for helping make it possible for Bella to attend the National FCCLA Leadership Conference.

HELP US BUILD A PLACE TO PLAY, GROW, AND BELONG!

The finish line is in sight! Thanks to the generosity of our community, the completion of our playground project is very near. We invite you to be part of the final phase by sponsoring a lasting feature that will provide children with opportunities to play, learn, connect, and thrive for years to come.

As Albert Einstein said:

"Play is the highest form of research."

And Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers) reminded us:

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY



Every Contribution helps us reach the finish line and creates a place where children can build friendships, strengthen social skills, stay active, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Your support will have a lasting impact on the children and families who will enjoy this space for years to come.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



$300 Share a **Buddy Bench Sponsorship** with three other organizations or individuals

$600 Share a **Buddy Bench Sponsorship** with one other organization or individual

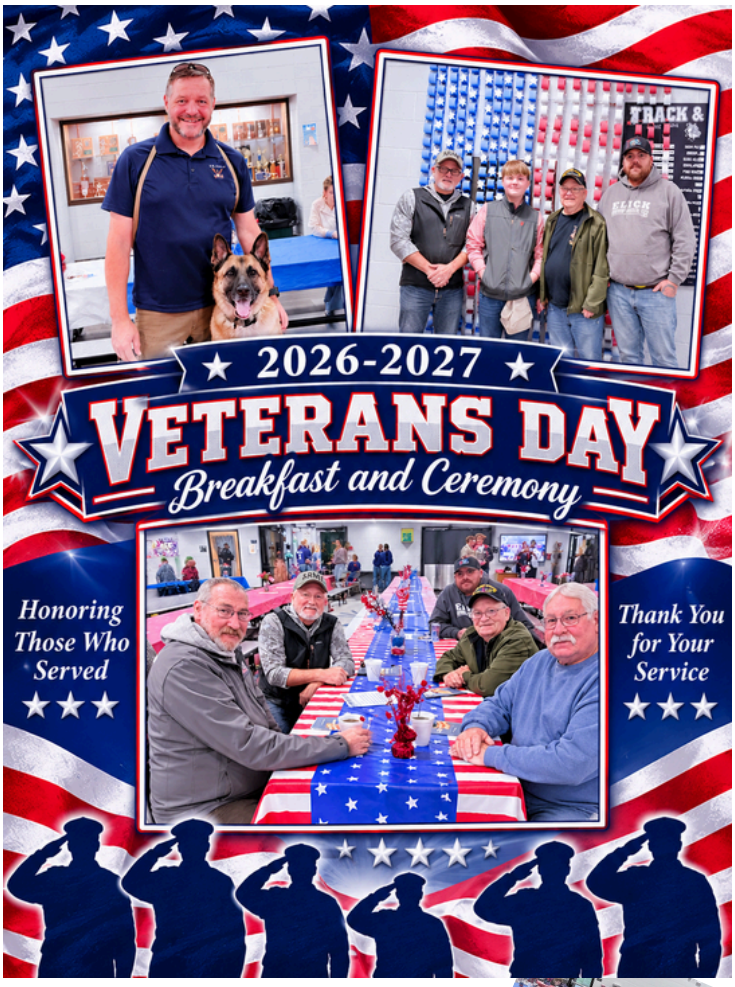
$1,000 Sponsor a **Buddy Bench** as an individual sponsor **OR** share sponsorship of a **Picnic Table** with another organization or individual

$2,000 Sponsor a **Picnic Table**

$3,000 Sponsor a **Granite Buddy Bench**

EMAIL: RBAIRD@EKSCHOOLS.ORG
CALL 740-599-7000 X1002
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

The completion of this exciting project is within reach. Together we can make the dream a reality and create a lasting legacy for our community's children.





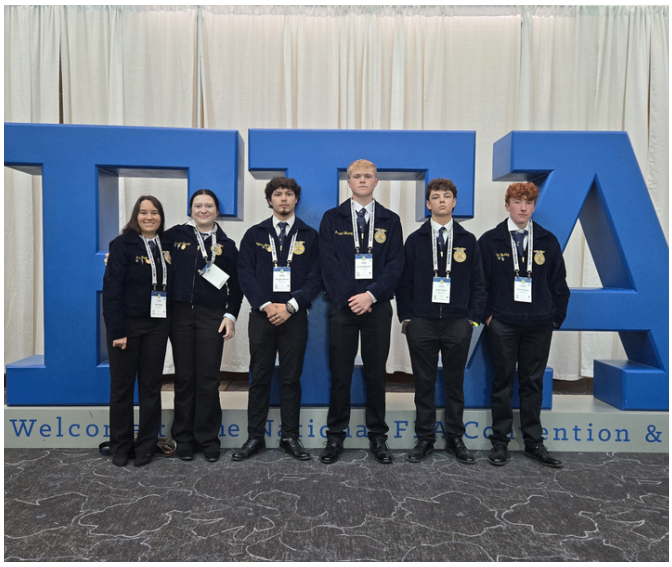
We were honored to welcome Ben Brockway, Master-at-Arms 1st Class, Expeditionary Warfare Specialist, U.S. Navy (Retired)—and husband of East Knox teacher Emily Brockway—as our guest speaker! Thank you, Mr. Brockway, for your service to our country and for taking the time to inspire our Bulldogs!



Thank you for your service!

East Knox FFA attends National FFA Convention

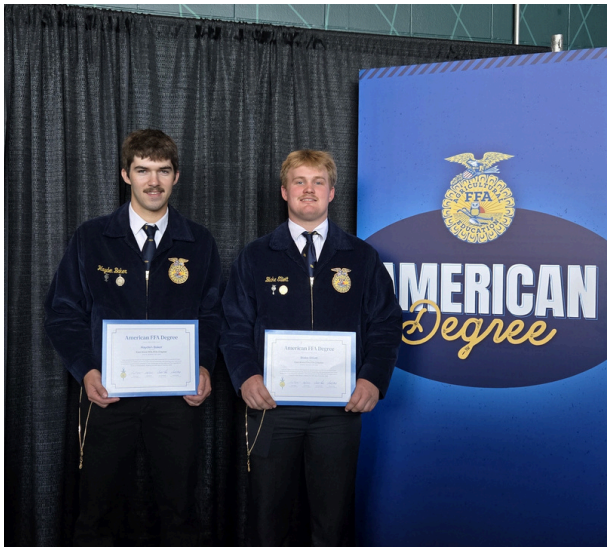
Recently members of the East Knox FFA attended the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.



We had six members amongst over 70,000 FFA members in attendance from all of the United States. Members that went to the convention included (L to R): Ava Page, Miranda Fawcett, Brayden Moran, Garrett Wesney, Bryar Wilson, and Noah Beckley.

During the National Convention the chapter participated in many activities while they attended the convention. The convention included a large career show for the students to attend. The career show boasts more than 1,300 booths representing agriculture-related companies, colleges, US Armed Forces and much, much more. The students also attended a leadership workshop on “Be Kind to Your Mind!” In the convention sessions students learned how to “Evolve, Engage, and Empower” their leadership skills, and they learned how they could also encourage their local chapter members to reach their potential and grow as well. The chapter also enjoyed the World’s Toughest Rodeo and even a hypnotist show.

East Knox FFA Members Earn Their Prestigious American FFA Degree



Hayden Baker and Blake Elliott of the East Knox FFA were recently recognized among 5,816 members nationwide to receive the American FFA Degree—the highest honor awarded by the National FFA Organization. Fewer than 2% of FFA members achieve this milestone each year, making it a tremendous point of pride to have two recipients from the East Knox School District.

Earning the American FFA Degree requires years of dedication and strict qualifications. To be selected, candidates must:

- Hold their State FFA Degree and complete at least three years of agricultural education.
- Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention.
- Complete at least 50 hours of community service.
- Productively earn at least $10,000 and reinvest $7,500 into their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program.
- Maintain a scholastic record of a "C" or better.
- Pass an intense written application review at the local, district, state, and national levels.

Hayden Baker, the son of Dustin and Lisa Baker, completed an SAE program consisting of job placement projects at Baker Property and Gambier Welding. He is currently employed at Ellis Brothers Ready Mix Concrete.

Blake Elliott, the son of Josh and Alissa Elliott, completed an SAE program featuring job placements at Elliott Farms, Gingrich Repair, and Blue Sky Mine Ag Solutions. Today, Blake works at Elliott Farms and Gingrich Repair while also running his own portable welding business.

Congratulations to Hayden and Blake on their hard work and outstanding achievement!

EAST KNOX SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1 | 2026 – 2027 School Year | Excellence • Integrity • Community

1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL & MERIT ROLL

Congratulations to all of our students who earned recognition on the First Quarter Honor Roll and Merit Roll! We are proud of your hard work, dedication, and academic accomplishments. Keep up the great work!

3RD GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Emilia Banks • Elleigh Blomberg • Brooklyn Grandstaff • Bexley Howard • Berlyn Hundley • Sienna Kapper • Olivia Legros • Aubree Miller • Mary Mundy • Aria Murphy • Cora Nourse • Jerry Poff • Kinisley Proper • Kasen Riley • Micah Rine • Braylynn Stephens • Liam Tiega • Luci Weiffenbach • Landon Wells • Gage Whims

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Lily Arck • Gracie Bailey • Harley Barber • Gunner Brooks • Abigail Buskirk • Donovan Dennis • Laniakea Doze • Emma Evans • Charlie Flowers • Teagan Gall • Raylan Gatton • Harley Hanna • Xavier Hanna • Kaleb Harris • Novaleigh Ivy • Gavin Kidd • Vayda Krownapple • Kyla Miller • Cooper Moore • Waylon Murphy • Axton Nelson • Ryker Pierce • Hudson Pratt • Michaela Rine • Olivia Rine • James Schwartz • Greyson Shelton • Scarlett Shelton • Skylar Sivits • Hoyt Tharp • Karson Ward • Grayson Welker

4TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Dane Allbaugh • Jaxon Bible • Giovanni Gardner • Zander Gilbert • Cooper Grandstaff • Cassius Hansen • Landon Henry • Alexander Henthorn • Sawyer Ivy • Alayna Johnson • Weston Kieber • Briar May • Hudson Miller • Kooper Morningstar • Harper Stein • Charlotte Thoma • Madelynn Tomlinson • Harrison Turner

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Brynleigh Amyx • Jalycia Beatty • Isabel Bisel • Neveah Blanton • Jordan Brown • Ariyah Crawford • William Doane • Finley Eickemeyer • Sullivan Fisher • Jamison Frost • Jamyla Furay • Olivia Gentile • Jayla Gray • Caysen Hammond • Brantley Hess • Sebastian Hess • Calla Hicks • Reagan Hines • Poppy Howard • Paisley Jacobs • Maxwell Johnson • Raychael Keeran • Jaxson Lang • Chloe Lashley • Chloe Moore • Lincoln Plank • Trinity Reese • Sawyer Riggle • Skylar Senitt • Gavin Stephens • Graycn Studer • Madison White

5TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Adeline Heston • Adleigh Morningstar • Avery Nelson • Waylon Ott • Noah Pfettscher • Kenzlie Rine • Ryder Yeager

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Grayson Armstrong • Garret Brooks • Atlas Cook • Gus De Souza • Liberty Dilly • Aria Dunmire • Phillip Enders • Harper Flowers • Alex French • Sawyer Galloway • Bentley Glenn • Maxwell Keirns • Ryleigh Kelley • Ellouise Kidd • Aurora Legros • Kaicen McMillen • Wyatt Meade • Kydin Morningstar • Leighton Oare • Jake St Clair • Tucker Trein • Abriella Tucker • Troy Walsh • Owen Warner • Paxton Weiss • Klaire Willis

6TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Addisyn Beltz • Cameron Colopy • Isaiah Dilly • Connor Fisher • Hudson Halla • Lincoln Halla • Carley Hammond • Charlotte Hoobler • Carter Hysong • Ava Koontz • Marcus Link • Noah Miles • Aiden Nelson • Remington Nourse • Benton Riggle • Grace Weaver

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Bently Ansley • Carson Bonham • Cru Clark • Dharma Collins • Kyndrik Crawford • Vera Faucett • Reese Fletcher • Morgan Griffith • Hadley Huffman • Levi Larner • Demetrius Munday • Elise Norris • Tinley Reese • Logan Schmidt • Dylan Undercoffer • Brady Whims • Kori Woods

7TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Savannah Arnold • Avah Butcher • Raygan Clinedinst • Maddox French • Andrew Keith • Junia Pfettscher • Cecilia Pratt • Abigail Proudfoot • Lincoln Smith

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

LillyAnne Alspach • Silas Beatty • Isaiah Bland • Hunter Castro • Ari Crawford • Henley Ellis • Sydney Ferenbaugh • Marley Moore • Aaliyah Smith • Ethan Thoma

8TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Jordon Adams • Rylee Black • Caiden Cottrell • Raylee Fincher • Makenzie Flowers • Christian Hawn • Ava Hoobler • Elaina Koontz • Kora Logan • Tristen Reese • Emma Ridenour • Kendall Schwartz • Kaylana Smith • Audrey Williams

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Karly Brewer • Blake Fields • Ayden Hanna • Karter Keathley • Jillian Kelley • Karson Legros • Kennedy Maidel • Leslie Neighbarger • Emily Schwartz • Ajia Warth • Parker Woods

9TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Collin Beltz • Evan Blackshear • Marissa Claggett • Braxton Crouso • Kailynne Hammer • Callie May • Caralexis Muncie • Oliver Mason • Haley Page • Aidyn Phom • Zoey Shelley

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Zachary Adams • Joshua Bennington • Brantley Bible • Kayden Burke • Adyson Deacons • Ella Doane • Vincent Frazee • Mckaylee Garman • Morgan Graham • Allison Guinsler • William Houston • Ava Hughes • Angelynn Kauila-volk • Keagan Knepp • Aaron Knox • Summer Lilly • Reecie Lowe • William McDowell • Adalynn Rooth • Amelia Rooth • Kimbry Rooth • Ellie Schonauer • Adalynn Shepard • Merin Stone • Dixon Weaver • Kora Willis

10TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Lucas Colopy • Ryan Evans • Grace Frost • Kiren Grigsby • Zavier Guysinger • Carter Hammond • Justice Irwin • James Keith • Riley Kerns • McKayla Lamier • Paizley Lilly • Brent Link • Camden Muncie • Emily Norris • Delaney Schlaegel • Owen Undercoffer

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Reagan Beatty • Noah Beckley • Ellie Clark • Donovan Crouch • Ella Duncan • Kierra Goheen • Jaxon Graves • Kelsey Jensen • Gwenyth Opheim • Mason Payne • Landon Rocha • Seth Sapp • Isabella Stander • Miley Talbott • Aiden Wulf

11TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Anna Cline • Miles Colopy • Maddison Mckean • Carter Swartz • Desmond Thompson • Savannah Trager • Isaac Vineyard • Rhyan Williams

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Kayden Blackshear • Hayden Garman • Alexander Guinsler • Katrina Keathley • Tanner Severt • Natalie Smith

12TH GRADE

Honor Roll — All A's

Alexia Atkins • Ava Fawcett • Miranda Fawcett • Reese Ferenbaugh • Brody Korosec • Lily May • Alexis Neighbarger • Noah Nelson • Ava Page • Ryan Peck • Lillian Scott

★ Merit Roll — All A's & B's

Ray Arnold • Robert Downes • Eleanor Hayes • Brooklynn Kahoe • Shaymus Lashley • Alexander Nicolas • Hayden Priest • Ashlyn Sesco • Grace Shank • Gracie Slone • Rylan Winkler

Congratulations to all of our students!

Your hard work and dedication make us proud.

★ Keep reaching for the stars! ★

#EastKnox #HonorRoll #MeritRoll #StudentAchievement #ProudBullDogs

SPELLING BEE

Mid-Ohio County Spelling Bee
Elaina Koontz (8th grade),
Jordynn Furay (6th grade),
Liberty Dilly (5th grade), and
Abbigail Hobart (7th grade)







Elaina Koontz (8th grade) participated in the Mid-Ohio Spelling Bee, on November 10, 2026, at the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center. She placed among the top spellers in our countywide bee.



These students helped out a couple recently at Dirko's and they received recognition from Mark Hiner's office, State Representative.



October 2026 K-6 Students of the Month



All grade levels at the Elementary took part in our Annual Storytime with a Loved One Event the week of November 2nd through November 5th. Students ate cookies, completed fun activities, and were able to visit the Fall Book Fair with their loved ones. Second graders recited a couple poems with motions for their loved ones. Administration, students, adults, and staff look forward to this event each year!





A huge thank you to our 'Zookeepers,' Mrs. Moreland and Mr. Coleman, and all of our 'Wild Animals' on staff for making the day so special! Seeing our teachers have fun and participate together brings so much joy to our students.





East Knox Students attending the Knox County Career Center 2026-2027

Athletics - Student Recognitions

The Knox Morrow Athletic Conference (KMAC) announced the All Conference Award winners.

The KMAC recognizes one Senior from every school for every sport as an All-Academic winner. The All-Academic selection must have a GPA of at least 3.5.

Football

First Team Defense
Defensive Lineman: Gavin Warth
Defensive Back: Rush Beatty

Second Team Offense
Running Back: Logan Clark
Wide Receiver: Dakota Cooper
Offensive Lineman: Caden Ridenour

Second Team Defense
Defensive Back: Colton Armstrong

Honorable Mention
Landon Boyd

All Academic
Wyatt McDowell

Volleyball

First Team All Conference
Ava Faucett

Second Team All-Conference
Kenlie Moore

Honorable Mention
Paizley Lilly

All Academic
Ava Faucett

Boys Golf

Second Team
Keegan Harris
AJ Salmons

Honorable Mention
Trygg Waugh

Cross Country - Boys

All Academic
Cale Brewer

Cross Country - Girls

All Academic
Cloe Tucker

Division 6 All Central District

1st Team
Kenlie Moore - Volleyball
Rush Beatty - Football

2nd Team
Ava Faucett - Volleyball
Caden Ridenour - Football
Gavin Warth - Football
Dakota Cooper - Football

Honorable Mention
Summer Lilly - Volleyball
Paizley Lilly - Volleyball
Colton Armstrong - Football
Landon Boyd - Football
Logan Clark - Football



Little Free Library

Sponsored by: Lucy Knox Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
Books for ALL ages
Location: The Howard Township Office Cotton Street, Howard

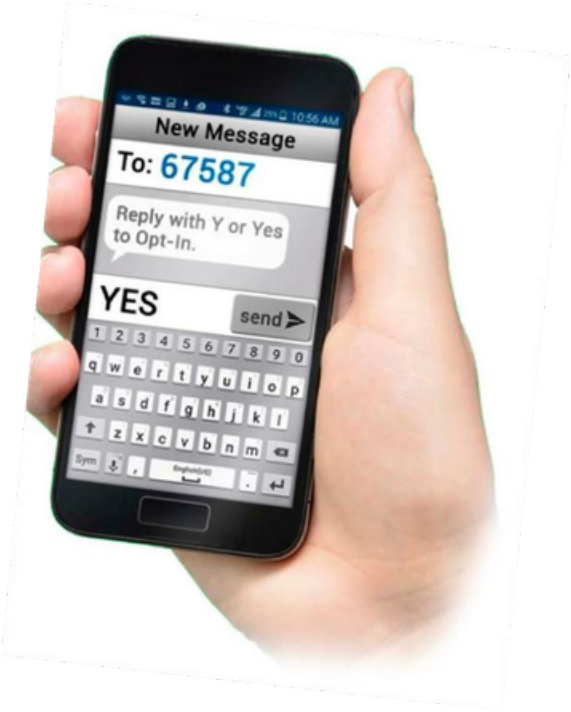
Bring a book *Take a book*

Jana Stewart, Apply Valley
Cell: 740-326-6018

East Knox Parents, Guardians, Grandparents, Family/Community Members

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our schoolutilizes the SchoolMessengersystem todeliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important informationabout events, **school closings, safety alerts and more.***



You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “Stop”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™ so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In from your mobile now!

Just send “Y” or “Yes” to 67587.

***Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes**: SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers.*

If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/tm for more info.

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Purple Pride

East Knox Local School District
23201 Coshocton Road
Howard OH 43028
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #51
MOUNT VERNON
OHIO
43050

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

CAR/RT
HOWARD POSTAL CUSTOMER
HOWARD, OH 43028

East Knox Local School District

"Being a teen can be tough. Just try to surround yourself with really good friends that really have your back, and also be a really good friend to those who really care about you. If you're not sure about certain things, talk to your friends that you trust and your family."

~Victoria Justice~

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES—This publication, a report to the residents of the East Knox Local School District, fulfills the requirements of section 3313.94 of the Ohio Revised Code. Suggestions or questions should be directed to the Board of Education Office, 23201 Coshocton Road, Howard, OH 43028.

Ohio School Safety Center
Safer Ohio
School Tip Line
844.723.3764
Report concerns for student safety