



Tecumseh Local Schools Connecting Link

Winter, 2023

Learning For All ~ Whatever it Takes!

Mission Statement: Tecumseh Local Schools is the driving force behind a community of diverse and proudly connected Arrows. We are relentless learners who strive to become better tomorrow than we were today.

From the Desk of Superintendent Crew. . .



Dear Tecumseh Community,

It's been an exciting time for our district as we have the opportunity to reengage with the community. The pandemic we experienced over the last couple of years deterred many events from occurring and we are thrilled to be able to bring these events back again! One of the events we had to forego the last several years included our Veterans Day Programs. Our recognition and gratitude for our area veterans has been a tradition at Tecumseh Local Schools for many years. We were extremely honored to be able to offer the Veterans Day Programs once again this year. A Veterans Day Program was held at Tecumseh High School, Tecumseh Middle School, Donnelsville Elementary School, New Carlisle Elementary School, and Park Layne Elementary School on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th. The programs were staggered in time, so veterans could attend one, or all, of the programs if they wished. Many veterans spent the day navigating from one school to another to enjoy the programs held in their honor. Some veterans were invited by a student or staff member, yet all veterans from the community were invited to attend as well. The veterans in attendance ranged from a few who served during the Korean War in the early 1950's to many who are currently serving.



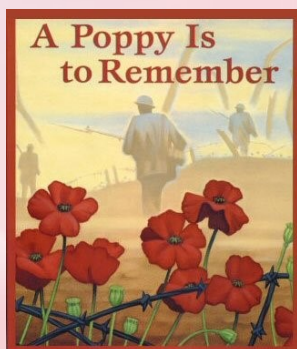
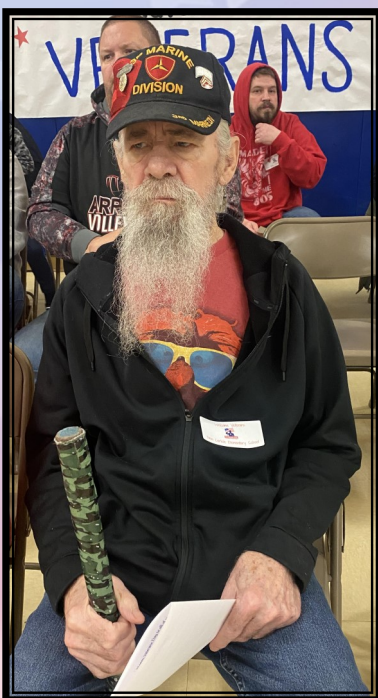
After the conclusion of the final program, Superintendent Paula Crew delivered numerous cards to the VA Medical Center. These cards were all handmade by our Tecumseh students, and greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Our AFJROTC cadets honored the attending veterans at Tecumseh High School by performing the folding of the flag ceremony, while Senior AFJROTC Instructor, Major Doug Couch, solemnly recited the meaning behind each of the thirteen folds. The flag is folded in remembrance of the original thirteen colonies and there is a specific meaning behind each fold. At the middle and elementary schools, our students sang patriotic songs which they had practiced for weeks ahead of the programs. The hallways were adorned with patriotic decorations created by the students, along with photos of many of our veterans in attendance. Thank you cards were personally handed to our veterans by our youngest Arrows. To culminate the final program at Park Layne Elementary School, the military song "Taps" was played while students, staff members, and veterans stood in honor of those veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice. The silence emanated throughout the room as attendees mourned those who did not make it home. Many eyes glistened.

We are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate and honor our veterans again this year. Additionally, we are confident that by doing so, we instill in our students an understanding of what it means to be a veteran. Perhaps, they may take the time in the future to say, "Thank you for your service," when they have the opportunity.



Veterans Honored at Tecumseh Local Schools





Facts, Figures & Finances

Tecumseh Local Schools has a Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan detailing the repairs, upkeep and replacement of equipment and facility needs. As our buildings age, we will continue to plan for the repairs and replacements necessary to ensure proper upkeep of the district facilities and equipment.

Major purchases made during this fiscal year:

REYNOLDS ROOF REPLACEMENT AT TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL

The district recently completed a roof replacement of Reynolds Gymnasium at Tecumseh High School. The most recent roof for the gymnasium was installed in the mid-1980s. Tecumseh Local Schools worked with the Garland Company on this project. Maxim Roofing was awarded the contract over several other contractors and completed the project on time without interruption of sporting events. We are confident this replacement will serve our community for the next 25 years. (\$359,864 - Permanent Improvement Funding)

AUDITORIUM/STAGE ROOF REPAIRED AT TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL

The district also recently completed repairs over portions of the roof above the auditorium and stage at Tecumseh High School. We were able to extend the life of the original roof with repairs as opposed to a complete replacement of this area of the roof. (\$56,550 - Permanent Improvement Funding)

HOT WATER HVAC BOILER REPLACEMENTS

The HVAC boilers at Tecumseh Middle School and Donnelsville Elementary School are in the process of being replaced. (Tecumseh Middle School *\$221,000, Donnelsville Elementary School *\$195,481 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund / COVID Relief Funding)

CUSTODIAL / MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

The district replaced a portion of the cleaning units and maintenance equipment at each of the buildings, which were purchased when the new buildings were built nearly fifteen years ago. (*\$145,149 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund / COVID Relief Funding)

STUDENT DEVICES

The district purchased student devices (Chromebooks) for five grade levels. This is an on-going scheduled replacement in order to maintain the one-to-one student/device ratio. (*\$342,112 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund / COVID Relief Funding)

*Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund / COVID Relief Funding - School districts received this funding as a result of the COVID Pandemic. All funds must be spent by September of 2024. Tecumseh Local Schools has strategically utilized this funding for major purchases which could not have otherwise been done at this time within our current budget.

Future Financial Planning / Projects

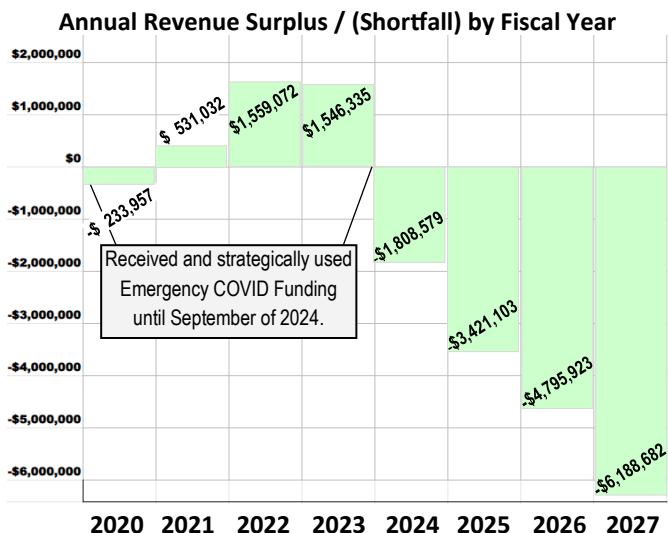
Tecumseh Local Schools, like most school districts throughout the nation, is in the process of investing a significant amount of funding into a cybersecurity monitoring system. This is mandated to comply with insurance regulations, which require specific monitoring to ensure our network is protected from ransomware and cyber attacks.

Transportation fuel costs have skyrocketed in the last twelve months, but have recently showed some stabilization. Two years ago, bulk diesel was about \$2.50 per gallon. Today's prices continue to trend up. The average cost has ranged between \$4.30 and \$5.72 per gallon. From the time period of July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, Tecumseh Local incurred total fuel expenditures of \$95,345. During the same time period in 2022, Tecumseh Local fuel costs increased to \$151,317. The district routinely monitors and projects the cost of fuel and other expenses related to facilities such as electricity, natural gas, and water. The upward trend in such expenses negatively impacts the district's overall general fund balance.

The district is in the process of having a new equipment barn built in partnership with the Carpentry Program at the Springfield - Clark Career Technology Center. Mr. Ron White, a 1996 Tecumseh High School graduate, is the instructor of the Carpentry Program. Students from Tecumseh High School who are part of this program, along with students from other districts, will provide the labor at no cost for this project. Site and building plans have been submitted to and approved by the Clark County Building and Zoning Department.

State of Finances at Tecumseh Local Schools

The district continues to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Significant reductions to staff and programs have routinely occurred since 2002 to offset deficit spending. Despite these reductions, due to additional needs and increasing costs to operate the district, the district is projected to begin spending more than it receives in 2024 by \$1,808,579. Although multiple attempts have been made, Tecumseh Local Schools has not been able to secure additional local operating funding since 1995.





Tecumseh Local Schools

STUDENT LEARNING UPDATE

The last couple of school years have been challenging for students, staff, parents, and community members. Those challenges have been met through prioritizing student needs, differentiating instruction, selecting appropriate interventions, after-school tutoring, and summer learning to name a few strategies.

Our latest District and School State Report Card indicates that our planning and efforts have positively impacted student learning. Although we continue to strive for greater academic achievement and growth, we have a lot to celebrate.

State Report Card

	Achievement	Progress	Gap Closing	K-3 Literacy	Graduation
Tecumseh Local	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★	★ ★
Tecumseh High School	★ ★	★ ★	★ ★	Not Rated	★ ★
Tecumseh Middle School	★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★	Not Rated	Not Rated
New Carlisle Elementary	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★	Not Rated
Donnelsville Elementary	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	Not Rated
Park Layne Elementary	Not Rated	Not Rated	★ ★ ★ ★	★	Not Rated

- ★ - Needs significant support to meet state standards and expectations
- ★ ★ - Needs support to meet state standards and expectations
- ★ ★ ★ - Meets state standards and expectations
- ★ ★ ★ ★ - Exceeds standards and expectations
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ - Significantly exceeds state standards and expectations

Achievement - The state measures student performance (basic, limited, proficient, accelerated, advanced) on state testing to determine an achievement score. Tecumseh Local Schools strive to have all students proficient or higher. The more students at the proficient level or higher, the higher our star rating. Our goal is to grow all student performance levels each year to demonstrate higher levels of learning.

Progress - Students are expected to make a year's worth of growth from year to year. Tecumseh Local Schools recognizes the need to make even more growth when students are behind. We are proud to have earned four stars in this area.

Gap Closing - This component measures the reduction in educational gaps for student subgroups. It combines achievement and growth for students in all subgroups, including the success of our gifted students. The four-star rating shows Tecumseh is closing the educational gaps.

K-3 Literacy - This component measures reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade. Teachers differentiate core instruction and work with at-risk students in small groups and one on one to help make needed gains to get students on track. This is an area of focus for our district.

Graduation - This component looks at the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate. Although the 2021 graduation rate dropped due to COVID and changes in graduation requirements, Tecumseh Local Schools increased their graduation rate in the two years prior to 2021.



Learning for All ~ Whatever it Takes!

STUDENT LEARNING UPDATE (continued)

Tecumseh's District Leadership Team met in September and December to discuss plans for improvement in each building. Details about each building's initiatives are listed below.

Park Layne Elementary decided that revamping student coaching groups was critical for the success of their intervention program. The goal was to increase communication and build relationships between Title Staff and classroom teachers and between teachers and students. This has already been accomplished and they have seen a huge increase in communication and knowledge of students. In addition, Park Layne staff is currently involved in intensive training around the Science of Reading and has determined that the purchase of a new phonics program for all classrooms is needed in order to meet the needs of all our students in this foundational skill.

Donnelsville Elementary plans to improve math instruction by emphasizing math fact fluency, utilizing rigorous released-state questions, and creating number talks that help increase student understanding of mathematical skills and concepts in weaker math domains.

New Carlisle Elementary is providing daily reading and math intervention to all students falling below proficient. Interventions will be provided one on one or in small groups, align with standards and student needs, and connect to the core curriculum in reading and mathematics.

Tecumseh Middle School is focusing on increasing rigor and providing intervention for all students. Teachers will have several opportunities to learn more about increasing rigor in all subject areas as well as accessing and implementing rigorous questions to provide advanced student thinking. Every student has a daily intervention time to receive extra help or extension in needed subject areas.

Tecumseh High School intends to increase student outcomes on State End of Course testing, specifically in Algebra I and ELA II. In addition, they will focus on competency and proficiency or higher for all students. The high school will continue to develop disciplinary literacy practices and writing across the curriculum.

Teachers and administrators continue to recognize successful practices and areas for improvement. They will once again step up to the challenge of meeting the needs of our students. We are excited to put plans in place and measure the continued success.



Senior Citizen Luncheon Returns

Tecumseh Local Schools was pleased to once again host the Senior Citizen Luncheon in December. Our Child Nutrition Department provided a delicious meal. Guests were served by members of our Junior Optimist Club and entertained by our high school choirs. Door prizes were generously donated by 571 Grill & Draft House, Bethel Community Church of the Nazarene, Copey's Butcher Shop, the New Carlisle Rotary Club, Tecumseh Athletic Boosters, and many staff members of Tecumseh Local Schools.

Our sincere thanks to all who worked to make this event a success! We hope many more of our district residents join us next December.





Tecumseh Local Schools



We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Suzanne Slagell for her service to Tecumseh Local Schools. Mrs. Slagell served on the Tecumseh Local Schools Board of Education since January of 2018. Recently, she made the difficult decision to resign her

position due to family obligations. Mrs. Slagell advocated for the mental health needs of students and supported the implementation of several important initiatives while she was a member of the board of education.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Last month marked the 10th Anniversary of the Sandy Hook School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. The events of this day will forever be etched in our memories. As we reflect, we can be thankful for many initiatives that have been developed as a result of this tragedy. The focus of mental health has been identified as an area of awareness.

As a district, Tecumseh Local Schools continues to advocate for mental health. Since Sandy Hook, TLS has put many safety measures in place from the creation of Emergency Operations Plans including standard office protocols for sign-in/sign-out, further restriction of entry points, practice drills including reunification, to the hiring of a School Resource Officer and Mental Health Therapists. We have much to be proud of as a district but must always continue to be vigilant with safety in our schools.

The Sandy Hook Promise created the idea of "see something, say something." We must continue to impress upon this idea that if something doesn't look correct or if you hear something concerning, please report it immediately. Nothing is too small! The district made a video a few weeks ago advertising the Safer Ohio Tip Hotline. This is a great way for anyone to report a concern and be anonymous. You may access this hotline by texting or dialing **844-723-3764**.

Agatha Christie's The Mysterious Affair at Styles



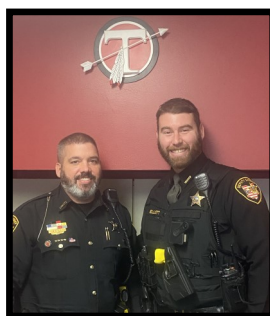
The Fall Play at Tecumseh High School was Agatha Christie's *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. Pictured here is the cast of the play, along with their advisors Mr. Hoke and Ms. Poston-Peters.

As always, it was an outstanding production!



We would like to introduce you to our newest member of Tecumseh Local Schools Board of Education, Mr. Matt Mills. Mr. Mills and his wife Jamie (Foster) are both second generation Tecumseh graduates from the Class

of 2006. They have two children, a second grader and a fourth grader, who attend New Carlisle Elementary. Mr. Mills' term will run until December 31, 2023. He is filling the vacancy left by Mrs. Slagell. We look forward to working with him!



D.A.R.E. Program Returns

Fifth graders at Donnelsville and New Carlisle Elementary schools will soon receive instruction from our two D.A.R.E. officers. We welcome Deputy Elliott (right) who will join Deputy Lisle (left) to offer this valuable program.

OFCC SAFETY GRANT

The district is extremely excited to formally announce that we received the Ohio Facilities Construction Commissions Safety Grant. School districts could apply for up to \$100,000 per building for upgrades to safety measures. As a district we were awarded \$497,000 that will be used to upgrade our school camera system in all three of our elementary buildings as well as the middle school and high school. Not only will we have better quality cameras but we will also have additional cameras and better storage. These cameras will also be able to be accessed remotely. This is an awesome investment by the OFCC in our district and we are thankful!

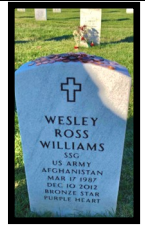




Learning for All ~ Whatever it Takes!



Many of our eighth graders enjoyed a class trip to Washington D.C. this fall. Students had the opportunity to experience many historical sites, monuments, museums, and visit Arlington National Cemetery. While at Arlington, the students left pennies on the headstone of SSG Wesley Williams, 2005 graduate of Tecumseh High School, who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Afghanistan in 2012. The coins signify to the family that the grave has been visited.



Mrs. Vicki Landes, third grade teacher at Donnelsville Elementary School, was selected for the Family & Youth Initiative's Annual "Grinch for Good" Award. Mrs. Landes was nominated for this award for the compassion she has for her students. She has made a major, positive impact on the lives of countless students over the nearly thirty-five years she has taught at Tecumseh Local Schools.

Mrs. Landes plans to retire at the end of this school year, and she will be truly missed.

TEF Teacher Grants Awarded

The Tecumseh Education Foundation recently awarded seventeen Teacher Grants totaling over \$9,300. The grants fund unique projects designed to enhance student learning. We extend our thanks to the TEF for their continued support, and our congratulations to the recipients



This year's Teacher Grant recipients are:

Ms. Megan Bockelman - NCES, Ms. Kari Dillman - PLES, Ms. Chelby Dye - NCES, Ms. Beth Elliott - TMS, Ms. Amy Enloe - DVES & PLES, Ms. Brooklyn Gibson - NCES, Ms. Kayla Hall - NCES, Ms. Stephanie Jenkins - NCES, Ms. Angie Jones - THS, Ms. Deb Jones - NCES, Ms. Annika Lehman - NCES, Ms. Danielle Morrow - NCES, Ms. Molly Parker - DVES, Ms. Sheli Randall - TMS, Ms. Lori Rizer - PLES, Ms. Melinda Scaggs - TMS, and Ms. Jennifer Vito - PLES.



JUNIOR OPTIMIST NEWS

Mr. Rob Tobey from New Carlisle Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram recently visited Tecumseh High School's Junior Optimist Club. Mr.

Tobey presented Emma Crist, Junior Optimist Club Treasurer, with a check for \$2,500.

The Junior Optimist Club's mission is *to make our district and community a better place . . . one service project at a time. Thank you Mr. Tobey for your generous donation!*



HOLIDAY PROGRAMS AND CONCERTS

The stage at Tecumseh High School was a busy place in the weeks leading up to the December holiday break. Students from Donnelsville Elementary, New Carlisle Elementary along with band and choir members from Tecumseh Middle School and Tecumseh High School showcased their musical talents in a variety of holiday programs. We have an abundance of talented individuals at Tecumseh!





Tecumseh Local Schools 2023-2024 Calendar

- X** First / Last Day for Students
- X** No School for Students
- X** Two-Hour Delay
- X** Virtual Learning Day
- X** Early Release

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug. 2023
 14-15 Teacher Work Days
 16 First Day for Students

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Feb. 2024
 7 Two-Hour Delay, Staff In-Service
 16 Conference Make-Up Day, No School
 19 Presidents Day, No School

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sept. 2023
 4 Labor Day, No School
 13 Virtual Learning Day

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Mar. 2024
 6 Virtual Learning Day
 8 End of 3rd Grading Period
 25-29 Spring Break, No School

IN-SERVICE DAYS

No School for Students

October 6
 January 12
 May 7

2-Hour Delay

October 11
 December 6
 February 7

VIRTUAL LEARNING

September 13
 November 7
 January 31
 March 6
 April 10

2-HOUR EARLY RELEASE

Friday, December 15

BOE Approved 12/13/22

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Oct. 2023
 6 In-Service Day, No School
 11 Two-Hour Delay, Staff In-Service
 13 End of 1st Grading Period

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Nov. 2023
 7 Election Day, Virtual Learning Day
 20 Conference Make-Up Day, No School
 21-24 Thanksgiving Break, No School

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Dec. 2023
 6 Two-Hour Delay, Staff In-Service
 15 End of 2nd Grading Period
 15 Early Release
 18 - 29 Holiday Break, No School

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan. 2024
 1 New Year's Day, No School
 12 In-Service Day, No School
 15 M.L. King, Jr. Day, No School
 31 Virtual Learning Day

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Apr. 2024
 1 Spring Break, No School
 10 Virtual Learning Day

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May 2024
 7 In-Service Day, No School
 23 Graduation (rain dates 5/24 & 5/25)
 27 Memorial Day, No School
 29 End of 4th Grading Period
 30 Last Day for Teachers

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June 2024

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July 2024

District Contingency Plan

The district will make up any calamity days missed beyond five (5) in order to provide our students with a quality education. All days missed beyond five (5) will become virtual learning days on the day they occur.



Tecumseh Local Schools
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