



## A Message from the Superintendent, *Paula Crew*

### Combating Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism has been identified as an additional measure of school quality and student success by Ohio's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Ample research exists which indicates that chronic absenteeism has a negative impact on the academic performance of students. As a result, Ohio added a chronic absenteeism indicator on the State Report Card.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing at least ten percent of the instructional time for any reason, excused or unexcused. To break this down a little further; if a student misses two days a month they miss twenty days of instruction in a year. If this absenteeism trajectory continues each year for a student, he/she will miss an entire year of instruction by graduation. The addition of the chronic absenteeism indicator on the State Report Card is designed to help school districts and schools identify red flags and trends in student absenteeism data and intervene with appropriate support and interventions.

Tecumseh Local Schools, as with many school districts in Ohio and throughout the nation, has experienced an increase in chronic absenteeism over the last few years, especially since the COVID Pandemic. We are working diligently to reduce our chronic absenteeism rate within our district. In 2023 our chronic absenteeism rate was 27.5%. Through the addition of numerous interventions, supports, and incentives, Tecumseh Local Schools' chronic absenteeism percentage decreased to 18.7% in 2024. Ohio's improvement standard for our district is a 3% reduction in chronic absenteeism from the previous year in order to meet the chronic absenteeism indicator on the State Report Card. Fortunately, we were able to reduce the chronic absenteeism percentage by 8% from last year to this year. Consequently, we moved from receiving zero out of five points on the chronic absenteeism indicator on the 2023 State Report Card to five out of five points on the 2024 State Report Card.

We have a very dedicated group of educators, staff members, and administrators at Tecumseh Local Schools who recognize the importance of students attending school on a regular basis. They have worked diligently to identify students early on who are missing school on a regular basis and heading toward potential chronic absenteeism levels. This early identification of potential chronic absenteeism helps us put additional systems in place to combat students missing school. Promoting a positive school climate and an inclusive culture, identifying and addressing underlying causes of absenteeism, communicating with our families on the importance of regular school attendance, developing interventions for at-risk students, partnering with our community agencies, and creating a shared commitment among all staff to promote attendance as a top priority has resulted in a significant reduction in our district's chronic absenteeism. We all know that students need to be present to learn and grow, academically, emotionally, and socially and we will continue our efforts to sustain and increase the progress we have made in this area.

# Denise Robinson



## Treasurer

School districts across the country are increasingly vulnerable to theft of funds by outside sources, such as cybercriminals, fraudulent contractors, and third-party vendors. These external threats exploit weaknesses in financial controls and security systems.

Cyberattacks, including phishing schemes and ransomware, have become particularly prevalent, allowing criminals to gain access to sensitive financial data and divert district funds. Additionally, vendors may submit false invoices or inflate costs, to obtain district funds. The growing sophistication of these threats makes it imperative for school districts to implement robust security measures and create transparent oversight to safeguard public funds. By implementing strong financial controls and monitoring systems, districts can help to prevent fraud. Here are a few of the safeguarding measures the district has implemented over the last year:

- **Positive Pay** – This is a fraud prevention tool used by banks to protect account holders from unauthorized or altered checks. When checks are issued, the District submits a list of check details to the bank. The bank matches presented checks against this list and contacts the District if there are discrepancies. Any exceptions are reviewed and either approved or returned, with no loss of funds for the District. This process ensures that only authorized checks are processed, protecting against fraud.
- **ACH Block** – The District uses ACH Block to prevent unauthorized electronic transfers through the ACH network, which handles transactions like direct deposits and bill payments. By setting up the ACH Block, the District ensures that no ACH transactions are processed unless explicitly authorized. Exceptions can be made for pre-approved transactions, such as payroll or recurring payments. This security measure helps protect against fraud by blocking unauthorized debits or credits, providing greater control and security for the District's accounts.
- **Dual Authorization** - Dual authorization for bank ACH files is a security measure that requires two levels of approval before processing an ACH transaction. First, the Treasurer reviews and approves the ACH transaction details, then the staff member who initiated the transaction also verifies and approves the details. Only after both approvals are obtained will the bank process the transaction. This system ensures security, reduces the risk of unauthorized transactions, and helps the District comply with financial controls and regulations.

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Treasurer, Denise Robinson, presented the five-year forecast at the November 19, 2024 Board of Education Meeting. A link to the report can be found on our website.



**Brian Dixon**



**Director of Facilities and Safety**

## **Tecumseh High School Hosts Regional School Safety Training**

On November 26th, Tecumseh High School proudly hosted the Ohio School Safety Center's Regional School Safety Training for West Central Ohio Administrators and Law Enforcement Officers. The event, held in the high school auditorium, was a vital opportunity for school and law enforcement leaders to come together and enhance their understanding of critical safety challenges facing students and schools.

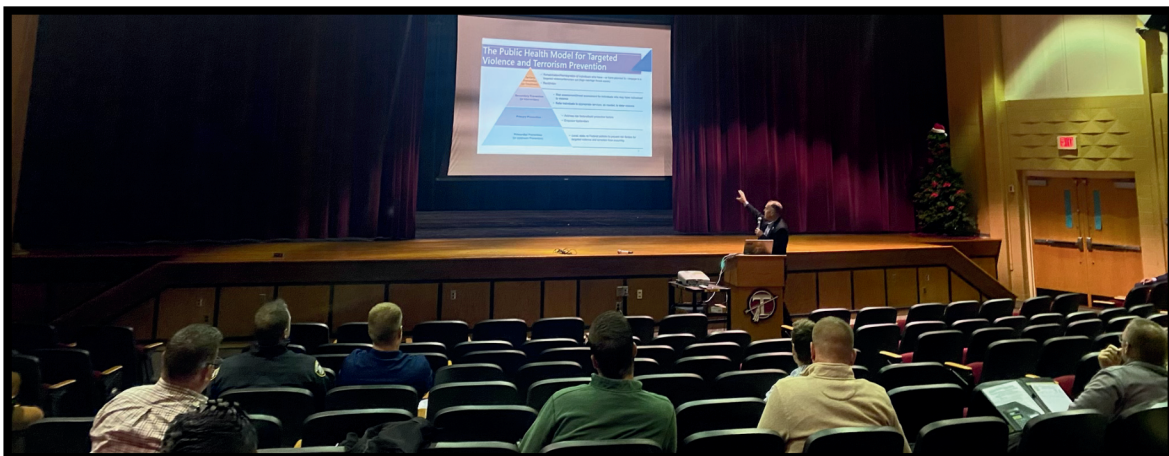
The training, entitled *Understanding Threats Against Students and Schools*, featured an impressive lineup of speakers from prominent agencies, including the Ohio School Safety Center, National Threat Assessment Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Secret Service, and Drug Enforcement Administration.

The sessions covered a range of essential topics, such as:

- **Threat Assessment:** Strategies for identifying and mitigating potential risks to student and staff safety.
- **Sextortion:** Raising awareness about online exploitation and preventative measures.
- **Violence Prevention:** Tools and approaches to reduce violence in schools and communities.
- **Recent Drug Trends:** Insights into emerging drug-related risks affecting youth.
- **Intelligence Resources:** Utilizing local, state, and federal resources to address safety concerns effectively.

The event underscored Tecumseh Local Schools' commitment to fostering a safe and secure learning environment for all students. It also highlighted the district's dedication to collaboration with local and national partners to stay informed about best practices in school safety.

Tecumseh Local Schools extends its thanks to the Ohio School Safety Center and all participating agencies for their expertise and continued partnership in ensuring the safety and well-being of our school community.



# Susan Wile



## Director of Special Education

### **Empowering Students with Complex Learning Needs Using the Science of Reading**

At Tecumseh Middle School, one educator is making a significant impact in the lives of students with complex learning needs. Ms. Raynee Shepherd, a dedicated and experienced veteran resource room teacher, has spent years helping students who arrive in middle school still working to master the foundational skills necessary for learning and work. Through her innovative approach and commitment to professional growth, Ms. Shepherd has transformed her classroom into a place where students are not only supported but truly thrive.

Over the past three school years, Ms. Shepherd has expanded her teaching toolkit by participating in the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) program, a comprehensive professional development course designed to deepen educators' understanding of how reading and language work. The program focuses on evidence-based strategies for teaching reading, spelling, and writing—essential skills for students who face learning challenges.

Ms. Shepherd's commitment to this program reflects her dedication to providing her students with the most effective and research-backed instructional strategies. By incorporating the LETRS approach into her teaching, she has been able to implement new techniques that address the specific needs of her students. These strategies include structured literacy practices, phonemic awareness training, vocabulary instruction, and more, all delivered in a way that meets her students where they are in their learning journey. The results speak for themselves. Through Ms. Shepherd's innovative and targeted approach, students are making remarkable progress in their reading and writing skills. Many students who once struggled to grasp basic concepts are now reading more fluently, spelling more accurately, and gaining confidence in their ability to work independently.

The success of her classroom is not only a reflection of her expertise but also of her passion for making a difference in the lives of her students. Whether working one-on-one with a student who needs extra help or leading a group lesson that challenges students to think critically, Ms. Shepherd's dedication shines through in everything she does.

As Tecumseh Local Schools continues to support all students in reaching their fullest potential, educators like Raynee Shepherd are leading the way in making a real difference. Her work is a testament to the power of professional development, personalized instruction, and a commitment to student success. We look forward to seeing even more progress and growth in the years ahead as we continue our learning and implementing instruction that is aligned with the science of reading.

*Learning for All ~ Whatever it Takes!*



# Beth Moore

## Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

### New and Updated Curriculum for the 2024-2025 School Year

We are excited to share the updates to some of our curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year! Our goal has been to enhance the learning experience for our students. This process involves careful analysis and piloting of various curricula to ensure we choose the best options for our teachers and students. Thanks to several grants from state and federal government sources, we have successfully updated and purchased new curriculum materials in English Language Arts, Math, and Science. Below is a brief description of some of the new curricula being implemented in our schools.



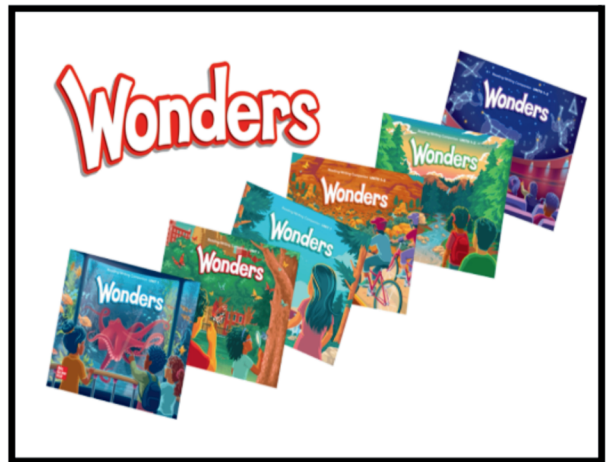
#### Into Math

Into Math is a comprehensive math program used by our students from kindergarten through eighth grade. This curriculum focuses on building a solid foundation in essential math skills, such as number sense, operations, and problem-solving strategies. Key features of Into Math include interactive

lessons, real-world applications, and ongoing assessments to track student progress. By encouraging collaboration and critical thinking, this curriculum prepares students to tackle complex mathematical concepts with confidence. Additionally, it has an individualized computer program for every student based on their current math assessment scores in NWEA Map.

#### Wonder 2023

Wonder 2023 is an updated literacy curriculum for kindergarten through fifth-grade students. It aims to foster a love for reading and storytelling by engaging students with diverse texts and rich narratives. The curriculum emphasizes key literacy skills such as phonics, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension. It also incorporates various multimedia resources, including videos and interactive activities, to make learning fun and engaging. Teachers are equipped with strategies to differentiate instruction, ensuring that all students can develop their reading skills at their own pace.



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# Beth Moore

## Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

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### Into Lit

Into Lit is a literature curriculum that focuses on critical thinking and deep engagement with texts for students in grades nine through twelve. Having begun with ninth and tenth graders in the 2023-2024 school year, it now extends to eleventh and twelfth grades. This program provides a diverse selection of classic and contemporary literature, encouraging students to analyze themes, characters, and literary devices. Additionally, Into Lit promotes discussions and debates, allowing students to express their ideas and opinions while developing their analytical writing skills.



### Common Lit

Students in grades 6-8 are using the upgraded version of Common Lit, an online reading platform designed to enhance literacy skills through a wide range of texts. This platform offers a variety of literary and informational materials, tailored to different reading levels, ensuring each student finds appropriate and engaging content.

Common Lit includes interactive questions to assess comprehension and encourages active reading with annotation tools.

### Into Science

The Into Science curriculum has been specifically updated for fifth and eighth graders, who are required to take an end-of-year Science State Assessment. This curriculum emphasizes inquiry-based learning, where students engage in hands-on experiments and real-world investigations. It covers essential scientific concepts across various disciplines, such as life science, earth science, and physical science. With interactive activities and collaborative projects, Into Science helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, fostering a genuine interest in the scientific process.

We are excited about these improvements and believe they will greatly benefit our students' learning experiences. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide the best education possible! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

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**"THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW,  
THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO."**

**– DR. SEUSS**



## **Supporting Student Success with Federal and State Grants**

As we continue our efforts to provide the best education for every child, it's important to highlight how we are utilizing resources to support our students, especially in the wake of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the key resources available to schools is federal and state grants, which play a critical role in enhancing educational opportunities and addressing specific needs.

One such grant is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, established to help schools recover from the impact of the pandemic. ESSER funding has been used across the nation to address learning gaps, ensure student well-being, and invest in high-quality instructional materials that support students' academic recovery. The purpose of these grants is not just to help students catch up, but to provide sustainable resources that will have long-term benefits for their education.

The new curricula mentioned in Beth Moore's article, New and Updated Curriculum for the 2024-2025 School Year, were purchased through ESSER III funding. We understand that students learn in different ways and face unique challenges. That's why our curriculum purchases have been carefully selected to address the needs of all learners, including students from low-income families, those with disabilities, English language learners, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.

At Tecumseh Local, we are committed to providing a high-quality education for all of our students. By leveraging ESSER III funding to enhance our curriculum, we are investing in the success of every child. We understand that the road to recovery may take time, but with the right resources and support, we are confident that our students will continue to grow and thrive.

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## **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Holiday Break</b> NO SCHOOL <b>Dec. 23 - Jan. 3</b>	<b>Staff In-Service Day</b> NO SCHOOL <b>Jan. 17</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> NO SCHOOL <b>Jan. 20</b>
<b>Conference Make-up Day</b> NO SCHOOL <b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>Presidents Day</b> NO SCHOOL <b>Feb. 17</b>	<b>Spring Break</b> NO SCHOOL <b>Mar. 24 - 28</b>

# Tecumseh High School



Aaron Oakes

## New Attendance Initiatives at Tecumseh High School

As many know, during the 2023-2024 school year Tecumseh High School (and the district as a whole) placed an emphasis on decreasing our Chronic Absenteeism rate. We recorded a Chronic Absenteeism rate of 37.1% during the 2022-2023 school year. According to the State of Ohio, we needed to reduce our rate by 1.3% during the 2023-2024 school year. With the help of administrators, counselors, teachers, staff, and parents, we far exceeded expectations and reduced our rate by 10% to 27% for the 2023-2024 school year. We would love to say that we are satisfied with that, but we know we can do better. We also recognize the importance of student attendance. To be clear, the state defines Chronic Absenteeism as missing 10% or more of the school year for any reason- excused, unexcused, vacation, college visits, etc. This equates to roughly eighteen days for the school year.

So we entered the 2024-2025 school year with the mindset of continuing the downward trend in chronic absenteeism. For this school year, we continue to do the following:

- Send letters home to parents as their student approaches Chronic Absenteeism
- Hold attendance meetings with parents/guardians, students, school administration, School Resource Officers, and Guidance Counselors
- Court Ordered mediation through the Clark County ESC

While we continue to implement these strategies we have also discovered a new way to recognize students for having great attendance. The Clark County Juvenile Court awarded Tecumseh High School a \$1,000 grant! Using that grant money we have purchased a PlayStation 5 and five \$100 Amazon Gift Cards. These items will be raffled off on Monday, December 16, 2024. We are hopeful that we will receive a similar grant in the second semester to hold a similar raffle.

On behalf of teachers and staff, I want to thank parents, guardians, and students for valuing school attendance. We are appreciative of the positive results we saw last year and are hopeful to continue the positive energy throughout the current school year. There is still time for students to enter the raffle.

Do you want to win a PS5 or an Amazon gift card? Do you have good Attendance?



If so you could win!  
See details below!



1 or less EXCUSED Absences-5 tickets  
2 or less EXCUSED Absences-3 tickets

Please complete the Google form if you think you qualify.  
See Mrs. Burlile to receive your tickets.

**Winners will be drawn randomly on December 16th!**

Disclaimer: If you have had any Suspensions you do not qualify



# Tecumseh Middle School



Lauren McFarland

## **TMS is Committed to Students' Academic Success**

For the past month, Tecumseh Middle School has taken action steps to support students' success in their academic classes. School Counselor, Mrs. Scaggs has begun Academic Intervention on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays. Students who failed either ELA or Math class during the 1st quarter of school, and then 2nd quarter interims were identified. These students meet with Mrs. Scaggs during their lunch period at least once a week. Mrs. Scaggs and the students learn how to access Progressbook, look at grades and messages, and identify the areas students struggle in. Then they work together to develop a plan to improve their grades. Students also work on missing assignments during Academic Intervention with the support of Mrs. Scaggs. Students also work on organization, time management, and positive coping skills. Students continue attending Academic Intervention weekly until their grades improve to a passing grade. We look forward to seeing the positive results with Academic Intervention when final grades are posted for the second quarter.

In addition to Academic Intervention, another action step put into place to help incentivize students to complete work is a Friday Academic Reward. This idea came from classroom teachers and our guidance department to reward students who complete their weekly homework. The sixth-grade language arts and seventh-grade math departments have piloted this program for the past two weeks. Sixth-grade ELA and seventh-grade Math teachers have developed weekly criteria for students to meet to earn their reward. While the criteria is specific to each department, it is focused on students completing weekly assignments. For students who have earned the reward, they receive a pass they bring to their lunch period. Students eat their lunch and then report to the gym with their pass for extra gym time. Students have a variety of activities to choose from - playing basketball, volleyball, football, tag, or just talking with friends. School counselor, Mrs. Elliott supervises students while they are in the gym. Students then return to class after their lunch period. Teachers have reported that students have been motivated to complete their work in order to receive the reward. TMS looks forward to continuing this reward program and expanding it to the eighth grade.

We want students to demonstrate and experience academic success on a regular basis. TMS is committed to providing students with the support they need to be successful in their classes and to reward students for their hard work in completing homework assignments. A huge thanks to our school counselors, Mrs. Scaggs and Mrs. Elliott who dedicate their time to provide these valuable resources to our students.

# Mark Holbrook



## Athletic Director

The 2024 fall athletes and teams had a number of successes. One of the major successes is that we had 163 athletes recognized as scholar/athletes. This means that 78% of our fall athletes earn a 3.20 or higher GPA during the fall season. The goal for each team is 60%. Our top five teams were Girls Varsity Soccer 94.44%, Girls Tennis and Cross Country 90.91%, Girls Golf 87.50%, and Volleyball 83.33%.

Our Athletic Department also stresses the importance of our Culture Playbook. Our Culture Playbook has three pillars: Be a Great Teammate, Stand Up and Own It, and Embrace the Grind. Athletes recognized for exemplifying these pillars are awarded the Arrow Award. The following student/athletes were presented the Arrow Award during the fall season:

- **Football:** Nolan Cornett, Troy Rose
- **Boys Golf:** Harper Coffey, Donovan Nickell, Owen Perkins
- **Boys Soccer:** Brandon Gonzalez, Brady Wallace
- **Cross Country:** Gavin Frascone, Emilynn Mata
- **Girls Golf:** Zoe Lewis
- **Girls Tennis:** Addie Harrison, Sammy Russell, Kayla Wood
- **Girls Soccer:** Bella Fowler, Audrey Lowe, Alayna Tobin, Emily DeBlas, Jayleen Arevalos-Lara, Meleny Diaz-Velasquez
- **Volleyball:** Jillian Evans, Amerie Matthews, Katie Kouts

We also had three Arrows earn postseason honors:

- **Boys Golf:** Chase Stafford was named the CBC Kenton Trail Golfer of the Year
- **Girls Cross Country:** Sara Kottmyer advanced to the Regional Tournament
- **Girls Tennis:** Sammy Russell advanced to the District Tournament

We also had numerous Arrows recognized all-league honors:

- **Football:** 2nd Team - Mason Dean, Aidan Magsaysay; Special Mention - Aiden Mossbarger; Sportsmanship - Austin Clark
- **Boys Golf:** 1st Team - Chase Stafford; 2nd Team - Owen Perkins; Special Mention - Donovan Nickell; Sportsmanship - Corey Russell
- **Boys Soccer:** 1st Team - Brandon Gonzalez, Christopher Gonzalez; 2nd Team - Brady Wallace, Evan Samosky; Special Mention - Caden Hoffman; Sportsmanship - Christian Gonzalez
- **Boys Cross Country:** Special Mention - Micah Sharbaugh; Sportsmanship - Chris Beebe
- **Girls Cross County:** 1st Team - Sara Kottmyer; Special Mention - Mackenna Sharbaugh; Sportsmanship - Alivia Snider
- **Girls Golf:** 1st Team - Addie Accurso; 2nd Team - Zoe Swearingen; Sportsmanship - Emma Sandoval
- **Girls Tennis:** 1st Team - Sammy Russell; Special Mention - Shyla Thomson; Sportsmanship - Shayla Hagenbuch
- **Girls Soccer:** 1st Team - Hailey Spencer, Alayna Tobin; 2nd Team - Bella Fowler, Payton Sisco; Special Mention - Libby Runner; Audrey Lowe - Sportsmanship
- **Volleyball:** Special Mention - Bailee Glenn; Sportsmanship - Riley Olinger
- **Cheerleading:** 1st Team - Makayla Bowers; 2nd Team - Shyanne Ferrell; Special Mention- Destiny Bowers; Sportsmanship - Megan Gilbert

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# Mark Holbrook

## Athletic Director

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We are pleased to announce the Class of 2024 inductees  
into the  
Tecumseh Athletic Hall of Fame.  
Congratulations!

**CLASS OF 2024**

**TECUMSEH ATHLETIC  
HALL OF FAME**

**JANUARY 17, 2025  
HONORED PRESENTATION AT  
HALFTIME OF BASKETBALL GAME**

**JANUARY 18, 2025  
INDUCTION CEREMONY (12:00PM)**



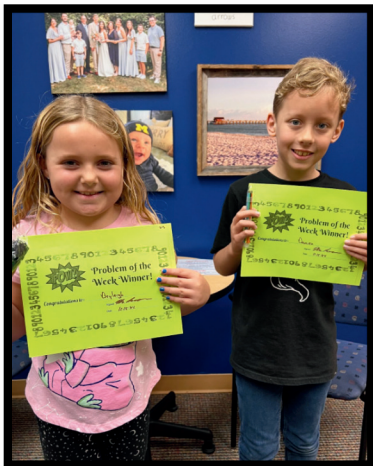
**JT  
BRUBAKER****BIANCA  
QUISENBERRY****KYLE  
SANNING**

**TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL**

# Donnelsville Elementary

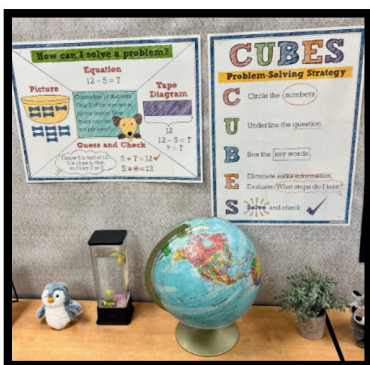
## Jay Burkholder

Donnelsville Elementary has several building goals this year. They coincide with the district's goal of academic achievement. This year we have a brand new math curriculum called, "INTO MATH." This series was piloted by many Donnelsville teachers during part of the 23-24 school year. Math scores have been historically lower than reading scores state-wide.



A few years ago we as a staff decided to see if we could encourage our kids to grow in math by exposing them to math in all areas of the building. Daily, we discuss Math vocabulary and challenge students with math problems on the announcements. Every week, we have a POW (Problem of the Week) that students can answer and names are drawn for prizes from the principal's office.

In the cafeteria, students are awarded tickets for positive behaviors. We also ask students about math vocabulary we've discussed on announcements and give them math problems to try and earn a ticket. Students are drawn each week for a prize from the principal. It's crucial for students to know that math is important here at Donnelsville.



We realize that in today's testing world, the state spring tests in math contain lots of reading. Long gone are the days when students just added, subtracted, multiplied, or divided to find answers to standard algorithm problems. Instead, an example of a state question for 4th graders is below. You can see reading is a large component to answering these state questions.

Another thing we do throughout the building is discuss using CUBES to help us solve word problems. Cubes is an acronym that helps when solving word problems. We teach kids to Circle the numbers, Underline the question, Box key words, Eliminate extra evaluation and Evaluate steps to be taken and finally Solve the problem. It's a way of making sure we are organized when we tackle a math word problem.

Travis hikes  $1\frac{2}{5}$  miles along a trail to a pond. He continues hiking on the trail for another  $2\frac{3}{5}$  miles to a meadow.

After a short rest, Travis hikes  $\frac{4}{5}$  mile along the trail back toward his starting point.

How many more miles does Travis need to hike before he gets back to his starting point? Enter the number in the box.

miles

←	→	↶	↷	✖
1	2	3		
4	5	6		
7	8	9		
0	.	$\frac{\Box}{\Box}$		



# New Carlisle Elementary



Kathryn Randenburg

## Ramen Noodle Drive and our Warm and Fuzzy Drive

The New Carlisle Elementary Arrow Ambassadors are a group of forty-five students in grades two through five. They meet monthly to plan events for the school and community. Recently, they planned a Ramen Noodle Food Drive for Hunger Awareness Week, which was November 18th-22nd. The students thought of the food collection, made signs to post throughout the school to advertise the food drive, and also thought of a reward for the class who donated the most. They collected 1,482 packages of Ramen Noodles that will be donated to families in our community. They not only learned how important it is to help others through random acts of kindness, but they also learned that it doesn't matter how old they are or what their size is, they can make a difference and a positive impact on the world.



Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our next school-wide initiative: the Warm and Fuzzy Drive, which takes place after Thanksgiving break. This drive is designed to provide much-needed warmth and comfort to those in our community through donations of new or gently used blankets, coats, scarves, hats, and gloves. With the colder months upon us, we know how much these items can mean to a family in need, and we are proud to be able to support them together as a school.

Thank you again for your unwavering support of our school's initiatives. We are grateful to be part of such a caring and giving community.

As we approach the holiday season, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your continued generosity and support. This year's Ramen Noodle Drive was a tremendous success, and we are so grateful for the outpouring of donations from our students and families. Your contributions will make a difference in the lives of many in our community, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for helping us make this drive a success!



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# New Carlisle Elementary

Kathryn Randenburg

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## Buckle Up With Brutus

Our school recently hosted an exciting and informative presentation for our 2nd and 3rd-grade students. Our Resource Officers, Deputy Loney and Deputy Dillon, along with some high school students, came together to engage with the younger students in an educational and interactive session.



The deputies shared valuable information about safety, and the importance of buckling up and following safety rules in the car. The students learned that they should stay in a car seat until they reach 4 feet 9 inches tall, ensuring they are properly protected during travel.

The event was also themed around Brutus the Buckeye, the mascot of The Ohio State University, helping to make the lesson even more engaging for the students. Through interactive discussions and demonstrations, the students learned about the importance of wearing seat belts, staying safe in cars, and other vital safety precautions.



The presentation was a hit, and everyone had a great time while gaining important knowledge about keeping themselves safe on the road. The deputies, high school students, and even Brutus the Buckeye helped make the day memorable and meaningful for the kids! Here is the [LINK](#) for one of the presentations.

# Park Layne Elementary



**Karyl Strader**

## **Together, We're Better at Park Layne Elementary**

We often hear the expression, "It takes a village to raise a child." We have always known just how true that is. At Park Layne Elementary, we started having conversations this fall about how many of our kids are coming to school much different than they were just as little as five years ago and undoubtedly different than ten or more years ago. We have noticed the most significant changes in kids' ability to sit and attend to a task, their willingness to try challenging things, and their ability to communicate. Yes, these relatively basic skills are missing for many of our kids. The more we discussed these challenges, the more we kept returning to the notion that "Together, We're Better." We must work together for the benefit of our precious children. Our kids need us.

We have the advantage of seeing 450+ kids every year, so we have a unique perspective that parents may not be able to see as readily. Kids are desperate for adult attention and affection, and often, that attention is hard to come by because we live in a world of distractions. Because of these distractions and the pull of tablets, screens, and phones, many children spend hours and hours each day in front of those devices, limiting the time they spend communicating with others. This is hampering students' communication skills. The time spent on devices that keep their attention makes it harder for them to attend to non-electronics, like teachers.



We wanted to do something to try and address these concerns. We decided our first step was to inform our Park Layne parents about what we are seeing and ask for their help. At conferences in early October, we talked to each parent about our concerns and asked them to commit to just three things: more hugs, more communication, and bedtime routines that allow for 9-11 hours of sleep with no electronics in the bedroom. We called it "The Challenge." Parents were receptive but many were surprised we were asking for such basic things. Over the past 6 weeks, we've reminded parents of the importance of these things and have shared reasons why these things are so important to their children's well-being.



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# Park Layne Elementary

Karyl Strader

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We then put together a “Together, We’re Better Family Night” to give parents and kids the opportunity to do these things together, learn more about the importance of these things, and see just how much their kids are learning at school. We had nearly one third of our students participate in our family night, and we had so much fun! Kids and parents played games together while talking, learned about the importance of physical touch while hugging and dancing together, heard a bedtime story read by a teacher, and showed off their phonics skills in a mini-lesson. Parents were so impressed with their kids and really understood why we keep talking about the need for kids to be in attendance each day. They miss so much when they aren’t here or when they are too tired to attend to the lesson.

The “Challenge” papers were due at the beginning of December, and while we only received about sixty papers back, we are hopeful that many more families participated but just didn’t fill out and return the form. We will analyze these results and look at other ways to engage our families with us.



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*Together, We're Better!*



# Karen Lokai

## Transportation Supervisor

### Safety for our Students

Each year, we review Bus Safety with students. Students participated in evacuating the school bus by going out the front and back doors. Students are taught that in a real emergency, the roof vents and also some windows can be used as emergency exits and not just the doors. The important thing for students to know is that in an emergency, they need to get off the bus as quickly as they can and as safely as possible. That is why they are told to leave their book bags or belongings on the bus when evacuating, as the important thing is to exit the bus as quickly as possible. Keep in mind that in a real fire, for example, a bus can become completely filled with life-threatening smoke within sixty seconds and engulfed in flames in less than three minutes.

Please remind your student to watch for traffic and also for the driver's hand signal to safely cross the road when loading/unloading at the bus stop.

By all of us working together we can keep our Arrows safe.



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Transportation Department

937-845-4492

# Veronica Cassidy

## Technology Coordinator



**Stay Alert for Phishing Emails During the Holidays:** As the holiday season approaches, cybercriminals often increase phishing attempts targeting families and schools. Please stay vigilant for emails or messages requesting personal information, financial details, or login credentials, especially those claiming to be from the school. Your awareness helps keep our school community safe. Thank you!

Tips to protect your family:

- Verify the sender's email address, look closely for unusual characters or slightly altered or differences
- Avoid clicking links or downloading attachments from unknown sources
- Beware of too-good-to-be-true offers
- Check for proper grammar and spelling
- Beware of emails requesting you to log in, share personal information, contain pop-ups, or request banking/credit card information

**Learn21: TLS Tech Help Desk System:** The district's technology department has transitioned to a new inventory and repair management system. This system enables us to efficiently communicate with parents about any issues or repairs related to student devices.



The communication will be sent from the designated email address ([one2oneManager@learn21.org](mailto:one2oneManager@learn21.org)) and will feature the subject line, "Device Incident Report - [Student Name]." Each email will provide detailed information regarding the issue or repair, including coverage details and what is covered under the Technology Fee. Additionally, the email will include specific notes about the nature of the issue or repair, along with any relevant updates or remarks from the technology department related to the service ticket.

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# Reminder

If your child will be absent or tardy, please call  
**937-845-4483**

# Child Nutrition Department



Anne Carter

## Senior Citizen Luncheon

It has been a great start to the Holiday season! On Friday, December 6th, we hosted our annual Senior Citizens Luncheon. We were pleased to serve over 200 senior citizens from our community. It was great seeing everyone smiling and enjoying a meal together. Our high school choirs entertained the group with festive holiday songs.

I want to extend my personal thanks to the Child Nutrition Staff. This event would not be possible without their help and dedication!



## Two-Hour Delay Days

It is that time of year again when we may have some extra two-hour delays in addition to our regularly scheduled ones. This is a reminder that breakfast will not be served on these days. The school cafeteria also runs on a two-hour delay, and it is necessary to have enough time to prepare lunch for the over 1,800 students across the district who receive lunch every day. Please remind your students to eat breakfast before they come to school on those days.

