



School Update

A Publication of St. Henry Consolidated Local School District
Vol. XL No.4 February/March 2026

Smoke Signals

Mr. Adam Puthoff, Superintendent



We Need Your Help: Join Our Transportation Team

Transportation is a critical part of the daily operation of St. Henry Schools and plays a vital role in providing students with access to learning opportunities beyond the classroom. From athletic events and field trips to extracurricular activities

and special events, reliable transportation allows our students to participate fully in the experiences that enrich their education.

As we look ahead to the next school year, our district is facing a serious shortage of bus drivers. The number of drivers we are projected to have next school year is below what is needed due to retirements, and without additional support, our ability to provide transportation for sports, field trips, and other student activities could be impacted.

We are asking for help from our community. We need dependable, safety-minded individuals who are willing to step up and join our transportation team. Serving as a bus driver is a meaningful way to support students, staff, and families while playing a key role in the success of our school district.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in becoming a bus driver and helping ensure our students can continue to participate in the opportunities that make St. Henry Schools special, please contact the Central Office for more information at 419-678-4834 x2101.

Your support can make a lasting difference for our students and our community.

School Update

St. Henry Consolidated Local Schools
<http://sthenryschools.org>

The School Update is published five times yearly by the school district and is distributed by bulk mail to all residents of the district.

Eric Rosenbeck, Editor
Sherri Ranly, Assistant Editor
419-678-4834

Calamity Days Used This School Year

As of January 28, 2026 the St. Henry Consolidated Local School District has used five of its allotted calamity days for weather-related closure days so far this school year. Therefore, the next day we miss due to weather will need to be made up as outlined in our district calendar. The district has designated makeup days of Friday, February 13 and then Monday, February 16, if needed. Hopefully, the area will avoid any major storms and the school calendar will stay on track. A calendar that specifies the board approved make-up days can be found on our district website under the District link and by selecting District Calendar.

School Board Appreciation Month



January is School Board Appreciation Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the dedicated service of our Board of Education. Our board members generously give their time, energy, and leadership to guide our district, often far beyond their regular monthly meetings. Their thoughtful decision-making and commitment to public education help ensure our schools have the resources, support, and direction needed to provide the best possible opportunities for every student. While much of their work happens behind the scenes, the impact of their service is felt throughout our schools and community. We are truly grateful for their continued dedication and advocacy on behalf of St. Henry Schools. Thank you to Andy Fullenkamp, President; Paul Moorman, Vice President; and board members Gail Hess, Ben Miller, and Brad Nerdeman for your unwavering commitment and service to our community.

Thank you!

Good Luck to all of our winter and spring sports teams!

GO SKINS!

Senior Citizens' Breakfast

On Wednesday, December 10, 2025, St. Henry held its 23rd annual Senior Citizens' Breakfast in the Commons. There were approximately 75 people who attended. The 2nd grade class entertained the crowd by singing some Christmas songs as well as several high school choir members. Thanks to all the students and staff who made this a success.



From the Board of Education

Mr. Paul Moorman

It would be remiss of me not to write about the buzz in the community and our school pride. I asked AI to give me some ideas and writing tips. Here are some highlights.

Core Elements of School Pride

Belonging and Identity: members feel they belong to something larger than themselves.

Authentic Recognition: recognizing diverse achievements—academic, artistic, athletic, and personal growth.

Traditions and History: Highlighting events and school's history creates a sense of continuity

Bragging Rights: celebrate achievements, such as state championships, to create shared stories for the community.

Our board meetings and school activities provide compelling evidence that we are building great St. Henry pride. The students, staff, administrative team, parents, and community have all contributed to our success. I challenge everyone to continue and build our core elements.

Another topic that is on the minds of many local school administrators, mayors, and county officials is the legislative changes to property taxes. The Ohio legislature

has made some significant changes to the way property taxes are collected. Agree or disagree with the changes, they will affect our school finances. We are not alone. Nearly all of the local schools and villages will be required to make changes to revenue streams. The formulas used in property tax collections are complex and complicated. Please take time to educate yourself on the value of the way your tax dollars are being spent. We live in an awesome school district with an incredible return on our tax dollars. It is our goal as board members to continue educating and nurturing students while maintaining the incredible return on our money.

Forge ahead white and red - Hail Victory!

From the Elementary School

Word of the Month

St. Henry Elementary students will focus on the words of the month: **Encourage** for February and **Noble** for March. Through our Redskin Way groups, students will collaborate with their peers to practice and demonstrate these important values in meaningful ways.

Preschool/Kindergarten Registration

Mrs. Courtney Imwalle

Registration for the 2026-2027 Preschool and Kindergarten school year at St. Henry Elementary is now open! Your child must be 4 years old to attend **Preschool** at St. Henry Elementary for the 2026-2027 school year. A preschool survey link has been emailed to parents based on our records. If you did not receive the email, please contact the office.

Children turning 5 years old on or before August 25, 2025, are eligible to attend **Kindergarten** this fall. To enroll your child, please contact the St. Henry Elementary office by phone or email. If you have already completed the Kindergarten Google Sign-Up form sent via email, no further action is needed at this time.



Testing Dates

3rd grade Ohio State Test:
ELA: April 15 & 17, 2026
Math: April 28 & 29, 2026

4th grade Ohio State Test:
ELA: April 14 & 16, 2026
Math: April 23 & 24, 2026

UPCOMING MUSIC PROGRAMS

Mrs. Candy Hemmelgarn

*All concerts will be held in the
High School Commons at 7:00 PM
Artwork on display in the Elementary
from 6:00-8:30 PM*

3rd Grade Music Program
HAWAIIAN BEACH PARTY!
March 17, 2026

1st Grade Music Program
& Elementary Creative Arts Festival
OCEANS OF FUN!
April 23, 2026



From the Middle School

Attention 6th grade parents:

All incoming 7th graders for the **2026-2027** school year are required to have Tdap and Meningococcal vaccinations prior to the start of the school year. Students may get their vaccinations now. Please turn a copy into the Middle School office. If you have any questions, contact Jill Westgerdes at westgerdes.jill@sthenryschools.org or 419-678-4834 ext. 2301.

Testing

Mr. Kyle Kunk

St. Henry Middle School will be administering the Ohio State Tests (OST) starting on Tuesday, April 14th. Testing dates for each grade level are planned as follows:

5th Grade – April 14th (ELA-Part 1), April 16th (ELA-Part 2), April 22nd (Science-Part 1), April 23rd (Science-Part 2), April 29th (Math-Part 1), and May 1st (Math-Part 2)

6th Grade – April 15th (ELA-Part 1), April 17th (ELA-Part 2), April 28th (Math-Part 1), and April 30th (Math-Part 2)

7th Grade – April 15th (ELA-Part 1), April 17th (ELA-Part 2), April 28th (Math-Part 1), and April 30th (Math-Part 2)

8th Grade – April 14th (ELA-Part 1), April 16th (ELA-Part 2), April 22nd (Science-Part 1), April 23rd (Science-Part 2), April 29th (Math-Part 1), and May 1st (Math-Part 2)

The school day will run as scheduled for all students not involved in these tests. If you have any questions about the OST, please call Kyle Kunk at (419) 678-4834, extension 2300. He will be glad to answer your questions, comments, and/or concerns that you may have on this matter.

Spelling Bee Winners

Mrs. Tracy Thieman

On Wednesday, December 17th, forty students from St. Henry Middle School participated in this year's spelling bee. The top three spellers qualified to compete in the Mercer County Spelling Bee, which will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at the Mercer County ESC. They



are shown in the picture from left to right: 8th grader, Chloe Buening, daughter of Robert and Stacey Buening; 6th grader and school champion, Nora Hoying, daughter of Michael and Lindsay Hoying; and 8th grader, Winston Jones, son of Levi and Heidi Jones.

MS Student Council

Mrs. Michelle Roessner and Mrs. Emily Reinhard

On December 23rd, our middle school students concluded the calendar year with a vibrant celebration of community and Christmas. The day kicked off with a high-energy session of "Singo," hosted by Hemmelgarn Entertainment. Students enjoyed a unique twist on the classic game of Bingo, trading numbers for popular song titles. The Commons was filled with music and school spirit as students sang along to popular songs. Then students participated in watching the tortilla challenge. We would like to extend a special "thank you" to the following staff members for their participation and good sportsmanship: Mr. Kunk, Mr. Timmerman, Mr. Bruns, Mr. Stammen, Mr. Wenning, and Mr. Wilker. These educators stepped up to the challenge as a reward for our students' incredible fundraising efforts for Tis' the Season. We are proud to announce that through various initiatives, the middle school students raised over \$3,000 for Tis' the Season. These funds went directly toward supporting local



families and ensuring a brighter holiday season for our community members in need.



From the High School

Ohio State Testing Information

Mr. Eric Rosenbeck

Parents, on January 8th, I emailed all freshmen, sophomore and junior parents a letter concerning Ohio State Testing. Please make sure to read this very important email; after reading it, please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns. St. Henry High School will be administering the Ohio State Tests starting on Tuesday, April 14th.

The Ohio State Tests are planned to be administered as follows:

- English 10 on April 14th & 16th in the Morning
- Algebra I and Geometry on April 28th & 30th in the Afternoon
- American Government, American History and Biology on April 29th in the Morning

A more detailed schedule will be passed out to the students in late March/early April. All students not involved with testing will be expected to attend school during regular school hours, 8:05-2:58. If you have any questions concerning Ohio State Tests, please email [rosenbeck.eric@sthenryschools.org] or call high school Principal Eric Rosenbeck [(419) 678-4834, extension 2200]. I will be glad to answer any and all questions, comments, or concerns you have on this matter.

Building on Success

Mr. Eric Rosenbeck

As we move through the winter months, I am honored to share the remarkable progress and achievements our students and staff have accomplished over the past three months at St. Henry High School. SHHS continues to be a place where tradition meets innovation, and the results of our collective hard work are visible in every corner of our building.

Student Success

The intellectual and professional growth of our students has been nothing short of inspiring. Our Academic Team secured a major victory at the Mercer County Scholastic Bowl, earning a \$300 check for their excellence. We also recognized Vincent Lochtefeld, Heidi Woods, Jack Fullenkamp, and Addison Schwieterman for their outstanding work in earning the highest scores on the American Legion Government Test. In addition, our partnership with Tri Star continues to pay dividends for our students' futures. Congratulations to Stetson Jones and Abram Wendel for earning UNOH scholarships, and to Heidi Woods and Khloe Delzeith for their first-place wins in the "Christmas at Memorial Park" sign contest. Whether it was the FFA competing at the State Ag Technology contest in Wooster or our Drama department's stellar production of Mean Girls, Jr., our students are proving they can excel in any arena.

School Pride

A true sense of belonging is the heartbeat of SHHS. This fall, our community rallied behind our Cross Country, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Volleyball and Football teams during an incredible fall season, fueled by high-energy pep rallies, send-offs and culminating in a Division VI Football State Championship. That same spirit carried into the holidays as our National Honor Society (NHS) organized gift wrapping, dress-up days, and a "Christmas Activities Day" to build camaraderie before exams. We also prioritize the safety and well-being of our students. Recently, Sheriff Timmerman visited to discuss Violence Protection and Safety Training in conjunction with House Bill 123, ensuring our students are educated in these topics. From the beautiful sounds of the Peace Chords Bell Choir to the "Christmas Cheer" coffee station hosted by the Hope Squad, our school remains a place where every student is valued.

Communication & Collaboration

Behind the scenes, our staff is working to continue to grow & to refine our educational offerings. Our English Department and administration met to discuss ELA offerings for the 2026-27 school year & beyond while ensuring we do what is best for students. In addition, SHHS continues to evaluate "Value Added" data to ensure we are challenging our highest-achieving students while supporting those who need extra growth.

Community Engagement

We believe that a school is only as strong as the community that supports it. We were thrilled to host our local seniors for the Senior Citizens Breakfast and loved seeing our 1st-grade neighbors caroling through our halls. The pep rallies and welcome home events undoubtedly created memories

our students will never forget. We also celebrate the bright futures of our student-athletes including several college signings: Quinn Lefeld, Morgan Baumer, Karlee Buschur, & Owen Zimmerman.

Thank you for your unwavering support of our students. Whether you are cheering at the cross country course or attending a Choir Concert, your presence makes St. Henry High School a special place to learn and grow.

Go Skins!

Guidance News

Mrs. Julie Overman

We're well into the second semester so students in grades 9-11 have received their course request forms for the 2026-2027 school year. The **Course Description Book** is available under the Guidance tab at **Redskin Counseling Corner**.

College Credit Plus (CCP) Deadlines

College Credit Plus Meeting will be held on Monday, February 2nd, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Commons for any student interested in taking CCP courses. Students interested in taking College Credit Plus courses must submit their **Letter of Intent Form** to the guidance office by **April 1st, 2026**. Without this form on file, students will not be eligible for CCP courses offered at St. Henry through Rhodes State or any online options. More information about CCP can be found at **Redskin Counseling Corner** under **School – College Credit Plus**.

Juniors In-Demand WSU - Lake Campus

Juniors will be signing up for the **In-Demand Learning Event at Wright State Lake Campus on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026** in the morning in the next few weeks. The intent is to provide an opportunity to expose juniors to In-Demand Jobs in our Mercer County region. Students will have the opportunity to experience simulations and hands-on activities, network with career mentors, and explore career planning opportunities.

ACT for Juniors

All juniors who signed up to take the ACT will take the assessment on March 10th, 2026. Students have already registered at school for this test and have access to free study materials within their ACT accounts. Each student is able to select up to four institutions to receive their scores for free; these institutions can be changed up until the test date.

Scholarships

This is a busy time of year as students' financial aid packages begin to be sent. Scholarship applications are available on **Redskins Counseling Corner** under the **College tab** then select **Scholarships**. The same scholarships along with national options can be found on SchooLinks as well as under District Posted Scholarships.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out!

A Slice of Success: Freshmen Earn Pizza

Hut Reward

Mr. Dan Garman

This year's freshman class distinguished itself by having the 3rd highest grossing cookie dough fundraiser ever, an impressive accomplishment that speaks volumes about their effort and commitment. Twenty-two top-selling students earned the Pizza Hut trip, representing a group that worked tirelessly to support their class goals. Their success was not accidental. It was the result of persistence, responsibility, and a shared willingness to put in the work.



The funds raised through this effort will help support important class milestones in the years ahead, including events like prom and graduation. While taking a break from school, riding in a limo bus, and eating the Pizza Hut buffet were rewarding, the students learned that a lot can be achieved through a collective effort.

The freshman class and Mr. Garman would like to extend sincere thanks to the St. Henry community. Your continued generosity and encouragement make opportunities like this possible, and your support plays a vital role in shaping positive, memorable experiences for our students.

HS Student Council

Mrs. Donna Rindler and Mrs. Jen Kuess

The Student Council held our annual Tis' the Season Fundraiser. The high school and middle school raised money for winter apparel for families and the elementary donated food and hygiene items to the cause. A big thank you goes out to the students, staff, and community who all helped make this event a great success in helping eleven families in our own community.



Donations at the high school were raised through a *Pie in the Face* Event. Teachers Dan Garman, Jerry Mestemaker, and Heidi Kramer received the most donations to their collection jars. Because the students exceeded the

fundraising goal, principal Eric Rosenbeck was also pied in the face in front of the high school student body. Pies were auctioned and students Zach Vehorn, Lillian Rockwell, Caleb Roessner, and Brandon Lauber pied the staff members in the face, respectively.



FFA – A Busy and Successful Fall

Mr. Brad Rindler

The St. Henry FFA chapter has been hard at work this fall, staying active through competitions, meetings, and community service while preparing for an exciting spring ahead.

This semester, several members represented our chapter at various Career Development Events, including the State Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems CDE and the District Food Science CDE. Members of the State Ag Tech & Mech team included Abe Wendel, Carson Schmackers, Ethan Brunswick, and Gavin Hess, who placed 6th individually, helping the team earn a 9th place finish at state. Members who competed in the District Food Science CDE included Vincent Lochtefeld, Hans Lochtefeld, Makayla Dues, Julia Broering, Kylie Steinlage, and Jocelyn Hess, where the team earned an 8th place finish. These CDE's allow students to demonstrate their skills in problem-solving, teamwork, and technical knowledge, gaining valuable real-world experience that connects classroom learning to agricultural careers. These events provided excellent opportunities for members to challenge themselves and showcase their talents at a high level.

Our November and December FFA meetings kept members informed, engaged, and involved. During these meetings, we reviewed upcoming events, recognized member participation, and continued planning for CDE preparation and chapter activities. At our November meeting, students enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal as well as fellowship with other FFA members. The December meeting brought holiday cheer as students participated in a white elephant gift exchange and enjoyed cookies, milk, and other holiday treats.

In addition to competitions and meetings, our FFA members proudly supported the community by sponsoring the school's annual blood drive breakfast. Members volunteered their time to help prepare and serve breakfast for donors, demonstrating the FFA values of service, responsibility, and leadership. This event was a great example of how our chapter gives back while supporting important community initiatives.

Looking forward, our chapter has a full schedule ahead. Members are currently preparing for upcoming CDEs, with practices already underway. We are also planning for National FFA Week, which will include activities that promote agricultural education, leadership, and awareness throughout our school.

Our FFA chapter continues to grow through hands-on learning, leadership opportunities, and service to others. We are proud of our members' dedication and look forward to a successful remainder of the year.



News from the Bus Stop

Ms. Lori Schwieterman and Mr. Tom Marchal

From the Bus Driver's Seat: A View of Safety

Every morning before the sun comes up, we climb into the driver's seat, perform a pre-trip bus inspection, and head out into the countryside and neighborhoods. From our perspective behind the steering wheel, we see things a little differently than the students waiting at the curb.

Our number one priority is getting every child to school and back home safely. To help us do that, here are a few observations we'd like every family to know.

1. Be Bright to Be Seen

Especially during the winter months, many students are standing at the bus stop in total darkness. From a high bus cab, especially in rain or fog, it is incredibly difficult to see a student wearing a dark hoodie or a black coat. For substitute drivers who are not as familiar with the stops and who does and doesn't ride, it is even more difficult.

- **The Fix:** Encourage students to wear **reflective gear**, have a reflective backpack, or carry a small safety light. You would be amazed what a difference it makes from our view when there is even a small reflective strip on the student. Also - be sure students are standing out in the open (at a

safe distance) and not behind something that obstructs our view of them.

2. The Danger of "Danglers"

We all love personalizing our backpacks with keychains, ribbons, charms, etc. However, these loose items can be safety hazards near the bus door. As students exit, these "danglers" can get caught in the handrails or the folding mechanism of the door.

- **The Fix:** Please ensure all backpack straps are tucked in and that there are no long, loose items hanging off the bags. We want to make sure that when you step off the bus, nothing stays behind.

3. Keep the Snacks in the Bag

Mornings can be rushed and it's tempting to hand your child a bag of crackers or other snacks for the ride. However, Ohio state law prohibits students from eating and drinking on school buses (with exceptions for medical needs and non-routine trips supervised by adults).

- **The Fix:** Finish all food and drinks before boarding. It prevents choking and allergy hazards and keeps the bus clean.

4. The Runaway Water Bottle

Many students carry large water bottles in their hands rather than inside their bags. If a bottle is dropped, it can roll all the way under my brake pedal or cause a student to trip in the aisle while the bus is moving. Several of us drivers have had incidents where a student dropped a water bottle when boarding or exiting the bus and it rolls under the bus – an accident waiting to happen.

- **The Fix:** If students bring a water bottle, please ensure it is **stowed inside their backpack**. A bottle tucked into a side mesh pocket is okay, but holding it increases the chance of it becoming a nuisance on the floor, especially in the hands of a young student.

We love seeing those young faces every morning, and we take the responsibility of protecting them seriously. By making these small adjustments at home, you're helping us ensure that the ride to school is the safest part of their day.

The bus drivers at St. Henry take pride in transporting our children to and from school every day in the safest way possible. Our regular drivers are: Justin Wenning (#1), Tom Marchal (#3), Ron Dues (#4), Mary Jo Delzeith (#5), Brad Rindler (#7), Open but mainly Adam Puthoff (#8), and Doug Watercutter (#10). Denise Froning and Sheila Heinl are our bus aides; they ride #5.

Our substitute bus drivers are: Mike Garke, Kim Geier, AJ Kremer, Dave Kremer, Mike Lange, Ron Post, Steve

Prenger, Adam Puthoff, Mitchell Schulze, and Brian Wuebker. Vic Hemmelgarn is our mechanic.

THANK YOU TO ALL!!

We are always in need of sub bus drivers. If you would like information about getting your license, please contact the Central Office at 419-678-4834 x 2101.

Qualifications to be a bus driver include the following:

- Annual physical examination and a drug and alcohol test
- Annual driver record check from BMV
- Commercial driver license (CDL)
- 16 hours of pre-service and 4 hours in-service training resulting in certification by ODE
- BCI and FBI criminal background check



Lunch Accounts

Parents, please be mindful of your child's account balance for lunch. You can check the balance on the school website (www.sthenryschools.org) by selecting the lunch information link. You will need to enter your child's PIN number and last name to get the balance. Our lunch prices are as follows:

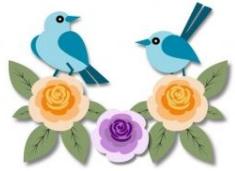
- K – 8 Regular Lunch - \$2.20
- 9 – 12 Regular Lunch - \$2.30
- Condiments - \$.15
- Peanut Butter - \$.25
- Extra Milk - \$.40
- Extra Vegetables - \$.55
- Extra Fruit - \$.55
- Extra Sandwich - \$1.10
- Extra Items - \$.50**

Many students purchase the extra items that are available. Please talk to your child(ren) about this. To help make sure that our cafeteria can continue to run efficiently, your diligence in keeping your child's account in the positive is crucial.

- Cash and checks are accepted in the school offices for lunch fees as well as PaySchoolsCentral.com for the online payment option.



SHHS Choir & Drama Club
Spring Concert & Cabaret Cafe



Join us as the CHOIR & DRAMA CLUB
present solos, duets,
CHOIR spring music and more!!

**Sunday, April 26, 2026
2:00 PM in the High School Commons**

Tickets are \$5 per person and include refreshments!!
Tickets will be available at the door



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