



School Update

A Publication of St. Henry Consolidated Local School District
Vol. XXXVIII No.3 December 2023/January 2024

Smoke Signals

Mr. Adam Puthoff, Superintendent



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The holiday season is upon us! As we look forward to celebrating Christmas and ringing in the new year, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your family for a joyful, relaxing, and safe season.

St. Henry Community!

It takes a village to raise a child, and our village consistently goes above and beyond. We see your support at athletic events, plays, concerts, parent-teacher conferences, and everywhere in between. You cheer the loudest at games, buy the most candy bars at fundraisers, and engage with teachers at conferences.

You recognize that empowering our youth doesn't end when school lets out. By showing up and lending your encouragement, you help our students build confidence to take risks, follow passions, and become their best selves. Your commitment makes them feel valued and gives them the foundation to shine.

Our community is special because you care so deeply. By continuing to support our students at events big and small, you are helping shape the bright future of our community. Our students thrive because you believe in them. For that, we are extremely grateful!

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
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419-678-4834

Elementary Playground Project

We are in the process of renovating our elementary playground. This project focuses on enhancing the safety, upgrading playground equipment, and creating more play space for our elementary students. The plan is to begin the project at the end of this school year and to have it ready for the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

Christmas Break

Students will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2023 for the Christmas break. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Inclement Weather

As we enter the winter season, there will be times when school will need to be delayed or canceled. Delays and/or cancellations will be posted in several ways:

1. One Call Now - see the school website to sign up for this alert
2. WCSM Radio - 96.7
3. Other channels may include: Channel 35 (WLIO), Channel 2 (WDTN), and Channel 7 (WHIO).

Calling All Food Lovers - We Need You!

Our amazing cafeteria team works hard to fuel our students' bodies and minds, but we need reinforcements! If you love cooking, serving others, and being part of a fast-paced lunch crew, we've got a job for you.

Be a substitute cafeteria worker! Help prep food, serve up smiles, and keep our lunchroom running smoothly when our regular staffers are out. No experience required - just enthusiasm and a can-do attitude.

Benefits include getting your fill of kid humor, a free lunch, and making a difference in the lives of our students. Plus you'll earn extra money!

Interested? Contact Sherri Ranly at 419-678-4834 x2101 or by email ranly.sherri@sthenryschools.org. Thank you for your consideration!

Go Skins!



From the Board of Education

Mr. Paul Moorman

Gail, Ben, Brad, Andy, and I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) defines the role of the local board as the following, "The board is a policy-making body and members are the chief advisers to the superintendent on community attitudes." I would add, "The board is a fiduciary for the district with the assistance of the district treasurer." As board members we were elected to make policy, give advice, and act in the best interest of the district's property and finances while taking into consideration the attitudes, opinions, priorities, standards, values, and economics of the residents.

At the November board meeting, students presented to the board feedback from a recent school activity. We listened to a community member on the attitudes of the community, voted to approve the five-year financial forecast presented by the district treasurer and started the process of putting a renewal levy up for a vote by district voters. As board members, we are blessed with a great staff, parents who care, administrators who work hard, and a community that supports our school system. We do not take these for granted.

Our school system plays a huge role in the lives of our small community. It seems at times our entire world revolves around our kids' activities and their involvement in school functions. Thank you for your continued support of St. Henry Schools!

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

White and Red, Forge Ahead!

GO SKINS!!!

Christmas Break – Early Dismissal

We will be dismissing school early on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. for Christmas break. There will be NO SCHOOL December 22 – January 2 for the Christmas Holiday. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.



Elementary Information

PRESCHOOL SCREENING

Mrs. Albers

Preschool screenings (Child Find) will be held at the Mercer County Educational Service Center (ESC) on January 26,

February 23, March 22, April 26, and May 24. If you have any concerns about your child (ages 3-5) in the areas of speech/language, pre-academics, hearing, vision, or motor development, please call Joyce Dicke at the Mercer County ESC (419-586-6628) to schedule an appointment.

Elementary Happenings

Mrs. Courtney Imwalle

Word of the Month:

Our word of the month for December is Self-Confident. Please continue to use the *Family Connection Calendar* to engage in nightly conversations. This will come home at the beginning of the month. We will have a pep rally on December 20th. Your child can wear his/her Redskin Way t-shirt. Awards will be given and students will do skits to encourage self-confidence and positive behaviors.

Our word of the month for January is Kindness. Our January pep rally is scheduled for January 26th. Awards will be given and the seniors on the girls and boys basketball teams, basketball cheerleaders, swim team and bowling team will be sharing stories and achievements related to being kind. Your child can wear his/her Redskin Way t-shirt.

Christmas Parent Night for Kindergarteners:

On December 12th, parents are welcome to come visit their child's classroom from 6:00-7:30 p.m. During this time parents and their child can work through different Christmas activities. To limit the number of people, please bring only your Kindergartener.

Testing Dates:

Aimsweb (all grade levels):

January 16-19

3rd grade Ohio State Test:

ELA: April 16, 18

Math: April 25, 26

4th grade Ohio State Test:

ELA: April 17, 19

Math: April 30, May 1

FROM THE PTO:

PTO Spirit Sale was held in October. Thank you for placing your order and supporting the PTO. Go Skins!

Grandparent Bingo for our kindergarten and first graders took place on Halloween this year. It was quite the exciting event with some of the students and grandparents dressed up! A special thank you to our sponsors: St. Henry Subway, Buschur Refrigeration, and Cozy Cabin Café. This year, due to class sizes, we split the bingo into two groups, which appeared to work well for the students and grandparents. We plan to do the same for our Spring Grandparent Bingo, which is scheduled for March 12th. A special thank you to our parents, students, and grandparents for being flexible with this change!

Scholastic Book Fair - The PTO worked with the elementary administrators to bring back the Scholastic Book Fair for students and parents. Students were able to preview the books on November 1st-3rd and were asked to create "wish lists" of interesting books. Teachers were also able to make wish lists for books for their classrooms. Parents were then able to shop during the evening of parent teacher conferences.

We hope that this event created extra excitement around reading and writing for our students!

If you have any suggestions to improve the event for the future, please email amanda@fortrecoveryinsurance.com. This was our first year, so we already have several items to change for the future.

A special thank you to Mrs. Imwalle, Mrs. Schmitz, Mrs. Miller, and the rest of the elementary teachers for allowing us to have the Book Fair and for their help.

Amazon Wish Lists - Looking for a gift to say thank you or Merry Christmas to your child's teacher? Teachers are creating their Amazon Wish Lists through Amazon. Parents can find teacher and staff wish lists online through the Amazon app.

The PTO supplied snacks to teachers during their **parent teacher conference** week. Thank you, teachers, for all of the EXTRA work you put in during this week!

Events Coming Up

Chicken Dinner Tickets will be sold by students. Chicken dinner pick up will be on Friday, January 26, 2024.

Mother/Son Bowling will be held on January 28, 2024. More details about the event will be sent home with your child.

Father/Daughter Dance will be held on February 4, 2024.

Grandparent Bingo (2nd, 3rd, & 4th Grades) will be held on March 12, 2024.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ST. HENRY PTO!!!

Middle School News

Honoring Veterans in the Middle School

Mrs. Monica Wehrley

This fall 8th graders at St. Henry Middle School prepared for their annual Veterans Day Assembly.

Wreath Speech Contest

The annual wreath essay contest was held on October 27th. Eighteen students presented their speeches on the topic,

"Why I Appreciate America." The students did a wonderful job articulating why they appreciate America. The winners, Rylie Buschur, Breonna McCoy, Finley Brewer, and Bea Stammen had the opportunity to read their speeches at the annual Veterans Day program and will have the privilege of representing St. Henry Schools when presenting the wreath to the Tomb of the Unknowns during the Washington, D.C. trip this spring.



Veterans Day

On Thursday, November 9th, eighth graders held their annual Veterans Day Program. In October, they wrote over 200 letters of invitation to veterans. Veterans and community members listened to Wreath Speech winners tell about, "Why they Appreciate America." A slide presentation was shown honoring local veterans. The 7th and 8th grade band played "American Folk Trilogy" and "March of the Armed Forces"; during this time veterans in all branches were honored with a token of gratitude. Following the assembly, Veterans and other guests gathered for refreshments and conversation with 8th graders.

On November 8th, eighth grade students traveled to St. Henry Elementary to do an assembly about Veterans Day and go into classrooms to do activities centered around Veterans and America with preschool to fourth-grade students.



8th Grade Students Engage in Book Clubs with Community Members

Mrs. Monica Wehrley

In an innovative approach to enhance the learning experience in 8th grade English language arts, students are taking a leap beyond the traditional classroom setting and immersing themselves in book clubs with community members. This initiative aims to not only deepen students' understanding of literature but also foster meaningful connections with individuals from the community. The book clubs provide a platform for students to engage in dynamic discussions, share diverse perspectives, and develop critical thinking skills outside the confines of the classroom. Local professionals, parents, and avid readers from various backgrounds volunteer to join these book clubs.



Students chose a classic to read in October and two books in a series for November and December. Thank you to the community members who have participated in this learning experience; hopefully it will leave a lasting impact on these students as they continue their academic journey.



happy
New Year

High School News

Guidance News

Mrs. Julie Overman

It is a busy time of year with a lot going on at SHHS and the same goes for the Redskins Counseling Corner. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events that will take place for various grade levels.

On **December 7th** the sophomore students have the opportunity to visit Tri Star Career Compact. Students attending will observe two career tech pathways of their choice. Tri Star will host an Open House on **Monday, December 11th from 5:30-7:30 pm** for interested students and their parents. Students interested in attending must have their applications turned into the guidance office by the designated deadline on the form.

In January, I will be meeting with grades 9-11 to share the course request information for the next year. The Course Description Book can be found under the Guidance tab of the school website at **Redskin Counseling Corner** to refer to course offerings in the high school.

On **Monday, February 5th at 6:30 pm in the Commons**, there will be a mandatory College Credit Plus meeting for any student(s) interested in taking college courses and at least one parent/guardian must attend as well. This meeting must be attended whether the student is taking courses at St. Henry or off-site. Students must have the letter of intent form signed and turned into the guidance office by April 1st in order to be eligible to take courses for the next academic year. **Please note:** if this form is not on file, students will be ineligible to take any College Credit Plus classes. All College Credit Plus Information can be found at **Redskin Counseling Corner** under **School – College Credit Plus**.

On **Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 pm in the Commons**, there will be an 8th Grade Orientation Meeting for all current 8th grade students and at least one parent/guardian. If you are unable to attend, please contact Mrs. Overman.

All juniors will take the **ACT on March 12th, 2024**. Students will create ACT accounts at school approximately 2 weeks prior to the test in order for their scores to be sent for free to four institutions of their choice. It is highly encouraged that they utilize the four free places, so students DO NOT have to pay at a later time to have their scores sent.

In October and November, I shared with the high school families the newsletter created by the Mercer County ESC family liaison, Beth Guggenbiller. These newsletters provided valuable information on ways to support family connections and assist your child in their education as well as share community resources around the county. Please be on the lookout for these monthly newsletters! As always, if there are any questions or concerns you may have about your child, please don't hesitate to reach out to me! *Wishing you all a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season with your loved ones!*

HIGH SCHOOL PE

Mrs. Mindy Siefing

The high school physical education classes spent a week in the Community Center learning about Pickleball and perfecting their skills. In addition to the rules, students were instructed on the basics of the game including serving and volleying. They also learned how to properly keep score and rotate when points are scored or sideouts are awarded. A special thanks to Larry Hemmelgarn, Marilyn Pohlman, Kathy Naseman, and Fred and Deb Schwartz who helped instruct us along the way. Pictured are the champions of our one-day tournament.



Academic Teams wrap up season

On November 13th, the Junior Varsity Academic Team participated in the MAC JV Scholastic Bowl held at the Mercer County Educational Center in Celina where they finished in 3rd place – after finishing the regular season in a first place tie with Coldwater. Congratulations on a successful season!



The Varsity Academic Team finished another very successful season on November 20th at the MAC Scholastic Bowl held at the Mercer County ESC. After finishing in the middle of the pack for the regular season, the team finished 2nd in the MAC Scholastic Bowl just behind 1st place Parkway. The team earned a \$150 check from Bowl sponsor Mercer Savings Bank. Congratulations on a great season and thanks to Mercer Savings Bank for your support!



FFA

Mr. Brad Rindler

The St. Henry FFA recently concluded their fall fruit sale. Thank you to everyone who bought something in support of our FFA program. Fruit will be available for pickup/delivery around the first week of December.

In addition, the FFA has been very active throughout the last several weeks. On September 30th, six students competed in the State Forestry Contest, where the team placed 20th out of 37 teams. Located at Hocking College, these students performed several tasks associated with the forestry industry, including tree identification, forestry equipment identification, forestry disorders and diseases, timber stand improvements, and chainsaw parts identification and troubleshooting. On October 12th, several students had the opportunity to thank local farmers for all of their hard work by delivering meals to them while they worked in the fields. Over 50 meals were delivered throughout the community. The FFA once again teamed up with Marion Local FFA to host their annual tailgate party on October 14th before the St. Henry and Marion Local football game. FFA members and their families enjoyed food and activities before the game. Thank you to Technique Roofing for donating the generators to power the food and jumpy house. On October 16th, the FFA held their October meeting. Afterwards, the members enjoyed a, "Halloween Extravaganza," where they enjoyed bobbing for apples, cornhole, euchre, pumpkin smashing, a costume contest, and several other activities. At the November meeting, students discussed upcoming items and events, gave thanks and appreciation for all they are thankful for, played cards, and enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner with chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, noodles, green beans, pies, cookies, and several other food items. The chicken for the meal was the chicken that the students in Animal & Plant Science used to conduct their feed trials on during the Nutrition Unit.

The FFA also recently returned from the 96th National FFA Convention. From October 31st - November 3rd, students had the opportunity to tour several agricultural businesses in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Students toured Cargill in Sidney, Ohio, where they learned and saw how oil was extracted from soybeans and bottled and shipped to consumers. In addition, students toured Keeneland Race Park & Sales Pavilion, Woodford Reserve Distillery, Not Just Popcorn, and Dull's Tree Farm. At the convention, students interacted with nearly 70,000 other FFA members from around the country, listened to guest speakers and National FFA Officers, visited

with hundreds of agricultural colleges and businesses, and went to a Lainey Wilson Concert. Thank you to everyone who helped make this trip possible.



SHHS Drama Club Presents the Musical "Beauty and the Beast Jr"

On November 17-19, 2023, the drama club performed the musical "Beauty and the Beast Jr". The production was directed by Candy Hemmelgarn and assisted by Sandy and Lily Schulze.

The Drama Club would like to thank everyone for their support!!

CAST:

Belle: Grace Merrill, Holly Speck
Beast: Caleb Wendel
Narrator #1: Quinn Lefeld
Narrator #2: Emma Hemmelgarn
Narrator #3: Riley Lefeld
Narrator #4: Rylee Rauh
Gaston: Sam Hemmelgarn
Lefou: Lilly Sonner
Cogsworth: Grace Jansen
Lumiere: Ben Wendel
Babette: Natalie Goewert
Madam De La Grande Bouche: Abby Buschur
Mrs. Potts: Jaiden Stammen, Nora Grieshop
Maurice: Vincent Lochtefeld
Les Filles: Brooke Huston, Emma Rosenbeck
Monsieur D'Arque: Blake Fullenkamp
Chip: Isaac Bruggeman, Braxton Huwer
Old Beggar Woman/Enchantress: Nora Schwieterman
Aristocratic Lady: Kalani Brown
Fish Man: Tucker Sheeley
Egg Man: Louis Heitbrink
Sausage Curl Girl: Nora Grieshop, Jaiden Stammen
Hat Seller: Graci Westerheide
Milkmaid: Nora Schwieterman
Baker: Blake Fullenkamp
Lady with Cane: Katelyn Holdheide
Lady with Baby: Addy Sieftring
Candle Man: Mason Heath
Bookseller: David Wendel
Butcher: Tim Merrill
Wolves: Tim Merrill, Mason Heath
Statue: David Wendel

Additional 4th-8th grade and high school students:

4th: Bryn Cordonnier, Hannah Ranly, Olivia Watercutter, Olivia Huelsman, Tucker Sheeley, Isaac Bruggeman, Blake Fullenkamp, Ellie Schmitz

5th: Tim Merrill, Graci Westerheide, Louis Heitbrink, Stella Sheeley, David Wendel, Mason Heath, Brynn Dilbone

6th: Libby Speck, Halle Stammen, Braxton Huwer, Macy Uhlenhake, Allison Huwer

7th: Nora Schwieterman

8th: Addy Sieftring

High School: Jess Holdheide

CREW:

Alyssa Wenning, Libby Koesters, Mara Bruggeman, Riley Franck, Abby Koesters, Ella Buschur, Evelyn Gast, Kori Elking, Kori Bruns, Ben Wendel, Ava Watercutter, Ava Cordonnier, Emma Lochtefeld, Maria Beyke, Kathryn Broering, Cecelia Sutter, Lillian Rockwell, Rachel Hartings, Claire Buschur

UPCOMING MUSIC PROGRAMS:

*All concerts will be held in the
High School Commons*

DECEMBER 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM
High School Band and Choir Concert

ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS

MARCH 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM
3rd Grade Music Program

APRIL 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM
1st Grade Music Program

Christmas Break - Early Dismissal

We will be dismissing school early on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. for Christmas break. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Lunch Account Balances

CHECK LUNCH BALANCE ON-LINE

- Go to our school's website at <http://sthenryschools.org>
- Click on the "Lunch Information" link under 'Parent Links'
- Click on Lunch Account Balance
- Enter Student PIN# and Last Name

Please monitor your child's lunch account balance on a regular basis. Low balance letters are sent out weekly for accounts with a balance under \$5.00. **Students with a negative balance over \$20.00 will not be able to purchase any extra items in the cafeteria.** Lunch account balances and transaction history are available for review at www.payschoolscentral.com.

Payments to lunch accounts can be made via check to St. Henry Schools or online through the PaySchoolsCentral website.

REMINDER: write separate checks for students in grades K-4 and 5-12.

News from the bus stop
Ms. Lori Schwieterman

REDSKIN RIDER OF THE MONTH

Bus 1- Alex Elking (5)
Bus 3- Jack Buschur (5)
Bus 4- Lucy Vehorn (5)
Bus 7- Hannah Stachler (4)
Bus 8- Alexa Rosenbeck (4)
Bus 9- Chloe Homan (KG) No picture



Fog! Snow! Winter weather ahead! It is that time of year again. Winter weather is here. Bus drivers do everything in their power to keep the kids safe on and around the school bus, no matter the conditions. As motorists, please help the

bus drivers! As the weather turns bad, please allow extra distance between your vehicle and school buses so you have plenty of time to stop.

Parents, please remind your children to be especially careful while waiting on the bus when weather conditions are poor. Remind them that it is more important than ever to be at the bus stop 5 minutes early and to stand in their Designated Place of Safety. Students need to stay there until the driver motions them to board the bus. They should board the bus and sit down immediately to ensure the bus is stopped on the roadway for a minimum amount of time.

Military Student Identifier

Districts are required to identify students whose parents or legal guardians have been active members of the Armed Forces or National Guard at any time throughout the current school year. Please contact Sherri Ranly at ranly.sherri@sthenryschools.org or at 419-678- 4834 ext. 2101 if this applies to your family.



"PEOPLE WILL FORGET
WHAT YOU SAID,
PEOPLE WILL FORGET
WHAT YOU DID,
BUT PEOPLE WILL
NEVER FORGET HOW
YOU MADE THEM FEEL."
— MAYA ANGELOU

always
be kind

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 2024
1:00 - 3:00 PM

**ST. HENRY ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL GYMNASIUM**
251 E. COLUMBUS STREET (EAST ENTRANCE)



prom dress exchange

**Cash Only!
No Checks!**

SELLERS:

- * \$7.00 per dress
- * You decide price
- * You keep entire sale price

Dress Drop off:
11:00am - 12:30pm

**Unsold Dresses or
Money Pickup @ 3:15pm**

Sponsored By:



St. Henry Academic Promoters

Questions... Contact: Kim Baumer
419.305.8009

Find Great Deals on Beautiful Prom & Homecoming Dresses!
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