



HORNET'S PRESS

WINTER 2023

Updates from Licking Heights Local Schools

From the Desk of Dr. Kevin S. Miller

Greetings from Licking Heights Local Schools! Thank you for taking a moment to read our inaugural Hornet's Press newsletter which we will be sending to district residents quarterly. Our Hornet learners are busy enjoying another year of progress, growth, and success—thanks to community members like you.

For those I have not had the opportunity to meet yet, I am in my second semester as Superintendent of Licking Heights. I have enjoyed being part of this community and am thankful to all the families, students, staff, and community partners who have made my introduction to the district such an enriching and rewarding experience.

Particular reasons to celebrate include:

- Groundbreaking for our \$66 million construction project to best serve the next generation of students
- A successful 2021-2022 State Report Card from the Ohio Department of Education in which we exceeded state standards across multiple categories
- Continued recognition and celebration of diversity across our student population

Thank you for your ongoing support of our K-12 students. Our schools are a pillar of the Licking Heights community and your partnership ensures a bright future for our students and our region.

Go Hornets! Dr. Kevin S. Miller, Superintendent



Mark Your Calendars!

Catch Me If You Can Performances: March 23, 24, and 25

District Art Show: March 27, 28, and 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Spring Break: April 3-7

Community Culture Day: May 12

Graduation: May 27



Our Award-Winning Team

**Mrs. Gamertsfelder,
Licking Heights High School**



Kathy Gamertsfelder (middle) receives Licking County Foundation’s prestigious Leaders for Learning award in a surprise recognition from Leslie Bline (left), Donor Services Associate, and Jennie Dawes (right), Donor Services Officer, at the Licking County Foundation.



High School Musical



LHS students are preparing to take to the stage in this year’s performance of *Catch Me If You Can*. Cheer on the cast and crew Thursday, Friday, or Saturday March 23–March 25 at 7:00 p.m. or enjoy the 2:00 matinee on Saturday, March 25. Tickets will be available on the district website and social media channels.

Building Tomorrow’s Leaders With Your Help

We celebrated the groundbreaking for our new construction project in November 2022. The anticipated completion of the first phase of this project, which includes the transportation center and the athletic complex, will be in the fall of 2023. The festivities were led by student leaders from the high school, middle school, and intermediate school, with performances from the high school band, choral ensemble, and fourth grade students.

We will continue to update our community on the project as we manage the construction process and keep a close eye on our budget. The community passed the bond issue to fund the construction in May 2022. The first phase of the project, which includes the transportation center and the athletic complex, will be completed sometime during the fall of 2023.



The Licking Heights High School Band welcomes Groundbreaking Celebration attendees.



From L to R: Isabella Yager (High School Student Council President), Reinaldo Perez Bonilla (Middle School Student Leader), and Evan Wiseman (Central Intermediate Student Council) all spoke about excitement for the future during the ceremony.



Principals and students join in the ceremonial groundbreaking.

South and West Elementary students sing “Hail to Thee” before the groundbreaking.

School Finance Insights



Licking Heights District Treasurer,
Todd Griffith

Licking Heights is one of the state's fastest growing districts. This has put a strain on state revenue due to funding gain caps on growing districts over the past decade.

However, our community has continued to fund our operations and construction efforts to serve our schools and students. The district has worked hard to develop relationships with its governmental partners to foster economic development.

Last year, approximately 14.2% of our district's operating revenue came from economic development. This has been one of our focuses to shift the tax burden away from our residential tax base. The district will continue to lobby for full implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP). This funding model was partially phased in as part of the FY22 - FY23 state budget. Fully phased in, the FSFP is a constitutional solution to school funding. It provides a reasonable, stable, and objective formula to ensure every public school district in Ohio is fully funded.

If successful, this newest funding plan will be a substantial resource in meeting our needs for additional operating revenue.

Donate to Our Annual 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip

This trip provides an incredible opportunity for students to immerse themselves in history they've only read about. We are building our next generation of citizens and strengthening their knowledge, respect, pride, and honor for our country.

The trip costs \$813 per student and our goal is to get as many students involved regardless of financial abilities. Donations of any amount are appreciated and help offset trip costs for students. **Simply scan the QR code below to make a donation directly to the district, or mail a check to our Treasurer's Office at 6565 Summit Road SW, Pataskala, OH 43062.**



SCAN ME



#HornetsTakeFlight

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1. The high school Model UN club participated in the state Model UN Conference at the Hyatt Regency hotel. This is the largest high school Model UN in the country and gives students an amazing opportunity to learn about world politics, public speaking, debate and conflict resolution.

2. Central Intermediate students honored veterans with a special Veterans Day breakfast.

3. Meet Ollie, our new therapy dog at Central Intermediate. He will be working in the counseling office once a week comforting grieving students, calming test anxiety and offering cuddles.

4. Licking Heights School District in partnership with I Am A Warrior Against Suicide nonprofit organization has installed signs at the middle school, high school and Central Intermediate entrances.

5. On Dec. 13, 2022, our Board of Education recognized Mr. Paul Johnson as outgoing President. We thank Mr. Johnson for his devotion to our students and thank Brian Bagley for serving as our 2023 board president.



Licking Heights Local School District

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