



# School Update

A Publication of St. Henry Consolidated Local School District  
Vol. XXXIX No.3 December 2024/January 2025

## Smoke Signals

Mr. Adam Puthoff, Superintendent



### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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.

### Thank you for your Support and Insight!

Over the past few months, we've had the privilege of hearing from so many of you through our listening sessions and feedback forms available on our district website. Your input has been nothing short of invaluable, helping to shape the future of St. Henry Schools.

Every comment, idea, and concern you've shared is being thoughtfully considered as our District Leadership Team works to develop a Strategic Plan that truly reflects our shared vision for the future. This plan will prioritize the needs of our students, staff, and community, and—most importantly—turn ideas into meaningful action. Together, we'll ensure St. Henry Schools continues to thrive and provide the best possible education for our students.

This process has been a powerful reminder of the strength and dedication within our community. St. Henry is a place of hard-working, caring, and prideful people who deeply value one another. Our schools are a reflection of these values, and we're committed to ensuring they remain a source of pride for everyone who calls this community home.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. We look forward to the next steps as we build a stronger, brighter future for St. Henry Schools—together!

### *School Update*

St. Henry Consolidated Local Schools  
<http://sthenryschoools.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*

### Senior Citizens' Breakfast

The annual senior citizens' breakfast will be held on Wednesday, December 11, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Anyone who resides in the district and is over 55 years old may attend. Please RSVP to the Central Office at 419-678-4834, extension 2101.

### Christmas Break

**Students will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, December 20, 2024** for Christmas break. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

### 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. Social Media – Facebook, Instagram, X (St. Henry Schools)
3. WCSM Radio - 96.7
4. Other channels may include: Channel 35 (WLIO), Channel 2 (WDTN), and Channel 7 (WHIO).

## Go Skins!



## From the Board of Education

Mr. Andy Fullenkamp

Over the past couple months, much work has been done on the St. Henry Schools' Strategic Plan development. Community feedback has been gathered through a Google form, along with focused and open community listening sessions. I thank Superintendent Puthoff for spearheading this effort and personally hosting all of the listening sessions. School board members were able to selectively attend these sessions and we all benefitted from hearing first hand feedback from the community and the healthy dialogue on the thoughtful prompts. I was very encouraged by the passion and engagement from the community. Many ideas were captured and some common themes were recognized through the sessions.

The next steps will be summarizing and reviewing the collected data with school administrators, staff and student leaders. Then we will ultimately decide which actions can be taken to support the identified strategies. You might be asking yourself, "What path has the school followed in the past with regards to strategy without a documented plan?" Good question. I feel the answer somewhat lies in the many dedicated individuals and leaders coming to school each day, working together to serve our students and community. We have had common themes, stated missions and visions, continuous improvement plans at each building level as well as regular district leadership collaboration to help guide us. Through dialogue, administrator/staff cooperation and countless other constructive practices, the school has achieved much and had many successes. However, we feel in order for us to move more effectively from where we are to where we want to be, a strategic plan will help guide our decisions and give us a compass to check our direction. How do our decisions today support our goals? Do our choices for tomorrow align with our stated strategy? Are our actions consistent with our plan, and do they reflect the desires of our community? We look forward to the next steps and continue to welcome feedback through this process.

On a more routine note, we are well into the start of another school year. The hard work and preparation over the summer from faculty and staff has been rewarded with a successful start and many student accomplishments. We remain fortunate in our area that community involvement in students' successes is ever present and noticeable in so many ways. This involvement is evidenced by attendance at extra-curricular events, the willingness of adult volunteers both in-school and through giving time and talents to help lead student groups, contributions to the many school fundraisers, and perhaps least noticeable but possibly the most beneficial, the individual support of parents and guardians in the home to encourage, and when needed, help students on their various pursuits. These efforts are difficult to quantify but are much appreciated and should not be overlooked. Putting it simply, our community cares! There is a cliché often used, "Children Are Our Future" meant to persuade some action to follow. While in some contexts, this phrase may be a fitting prompt to action, I think a better concept is "Children Are Our Present." We want to make choices today that best benefit all students to achieve their potential. In our listening sessions we spent time discussing our school vision, 'Enter to Learn - Leave to Serve' and it was clear this phrase has different meanings for different individual(s). When I reflect on what it is 'to Serve', I feel, as adults in our community, we each have a voice. We each have influence. We each contribute. How, when, and where are choices for the individual. When there is a need or an opportunity to influence, what choice can you make today to fulfill "Enter to Learn - **Leave to Serve?**"

GO SKINS!!!



### **Christmas Break – Early Dismissal**

We will be dismissing school early on Friday, December 20, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. for Christmas break. There will be NO SCHOOL December 21 – January 1 for the Christmas Holiday. School will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025.



## **Elementary Information**

### **Elementary Happenings**

Mrs. Courtney Imwalle

#### **Word of the Month:**

In the months of November and December, we're focusing on the word "Determined" as part of the Redskin Way, our character education program. Students participated in the Marshmallow Tower Challenge. This hands-on activity encouraged students to think critically, collaborate with their peers, and use their creativity. It tested their determination as they encountered obstacles while trying to improve their designs. Our word of the month for January is "Self-Confident." Students will get together with their Redskin Way groups and engage in activities that help them build and recognize self-confidence in themselves and others.

#### **Christmas Parent Night for Kindergarteners:**

On December 17<sup>th</sup> 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. This year, students will also be putting on a mini performance. At 6:30, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Rinderle and Mrs. Poling's classes will be performing. At 7:00, Mrs. Lange and Mrs. Huelsman's classes will be performing. The performance will be in the cafeteria. To limit the number of people, please bring only your Kindergartener.

#### **MAV Youth Mentoring -**

Currently, we have 19 high school students that come over to the elementary school once or twice a month to eat lunch with a student. This is a great way to build a sense of community across grade levels. Younger students gain positive role models, while high school students have the chance to demonstrate responsibility and empathy. Elementary students can practice conversational skills, and high schoolers develop leadership and communication skills. Both high school students and elementary students are really enjoying this special time together!

## Testing Dates:

Aimsweb (all grade levels):  
January 6-10

3rd grade Ohio State Test:  
ELA: April 9 & 11, 2025  
Math: April 29 & 30, 2025

4th grade Ohio State Test:  
ELA: April 8 & 10, 2025  
Math: April 24 & 25, 2025

## Middle School News

### Honoring Veterans in the Middle School

Mrs. Monica Wehrley

#### Wreath Speech Contest

The annual wreath essay contest was held on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen students presented their speeches on the topic “*Why I Appreciate America.*” The students did a wonderful job articulating their appreciation of America. The winners, **Daniel Fullenkamp, Adalyn Buschur, Kylie Bollenbacher, and Nora Schwieterman** 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.

#### Eighth Graders Honor Veterans with Leadership and Pride

On Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, eighth graders honored veterans and celebrated America through their annual Veterans Day activities. The students took on leadership roles in planning the day’s events, showcasing their well-rounded abilities and commitment to volunteerism. With strong support from the administration, they created a meaningful experience for veterans and the community.



In October, the students wrote over 200 invitation letters to local veterans. During the assembly, veterans listened to Wreath Speech winners share why they appreciate America, accompanied by a heartfelt slide presentation. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

grade band performed “American Folk Trilogy” and “March of the Armed Forces,” honoring veterans from all branches with tokens of gratitude.



After the assembly, students and veterans gathered at the St. Henry Veterans Memorial for a reception and refreshments. They heard 8<sup>th</sup> grader Katie Weitzel’s great-uncle, Robert Kunk, speak about his Army career at the amphitheater. Later, a Q&A session was held in the high school media center with 8<sup>th</sup> grader Shaylee Lefeld’s grandfather, Mel Kremer, uncle, Terry Kremer, and cousin, Danielle Kremer; each individual shared their military experience(s).

In the afternoon, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders led an assembly at the elementary school, presenting interactive activities on veterans’ qualities, the Armed Forces, and flag etiquette. They then visited classrooms to teach younger students about various aspects of Veterans Day, from America’s symbols to the First Amendment’s freedoms.

This year’s eighth graders demonstrated exceptional leadership and appreciation for veterans, making the day a memorable and educational experience for all.





## MS Student Council

Mrs. Michelle Roessner

The Middle School Student Council hosted their annual Halloween Extravaganza on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 students attended the evening event that was open to the entire middle school. The students enjoyed a dodgeball tournament, dancing, basketball, volleyball, a scavenger hunt, and Giant Jenga. The student council collected canned goods during



this event as well. They delivered these canned goods to Rustic Hope in Russia, Ohio, on November 6<sup>th</sup>. They all volunteered their time in the morning to help organize the facility. The students had an unbelievable experience volunteering. They even asked if they could go back and do it again!



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## 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 Redskin Counseling Corner. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events that will take place for various grade levels.

On **December 5<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm** for interested students and their parents.

\*NEW\* Tri Star Applications will now be online and students and parents are encouraged to fill it out together. Students and parents will receive further directions after the Tri Star Field Trip.

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, January 27<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Commons**, there will be an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Meeting for all current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and at least one parent/guardian. If you are unable to attend, please contact Mrs. Overman.

Juniors will take the ACT on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. 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.

*Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!*

### Christmas Break - Early Dismissal

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## 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](http://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- Oakley Borger (4)
- Bus 2 – River Oakleaf (2)
- Bus 3- Miranda Huwer (5)
- Bus 4- Quinn Alt (1)
- Bus 5 – Lydia Nieport (KG)
- Bus 7- Ivy Hemmelgarn (4)
- Bus 10- Natalie Stammen (3)



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 dis-

tance 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.

**HS Boys Basketball Schedule**

Date	Time	H/A	Opponent
11/27	4:45 pm	H	Russia
11/29	4:00 pm	A	Spencerville
12/3	6:00 pm	A	Ft. Loramie
12/7	4:00 pm	H	Shawnee
12/13	6:00 pm	A	New Bremen
12/20	6:00 pm	H	Minster
12/27	7:30 pm	H	Marion Local
12/30	7:30 pm	A	Ft. Recovery
1/4	4:00 pm	H	Anna
1/10	6:00 pm	A	Coldwater
1/14	6:00 pm	A	Ft. Recovery
1/17	5:00 pm	H	New Knoxville
1/18	5:00 pm	A	Ottoville
1/21	5:30 pm	A	Bath
1/24	6:00 pm	A	Delphos SJ
1/25	3:00 pm	A	Wapakoneta
1/31	5:00 pm	H	Marion Local
2/1	4:30 pm	A	Celina
2/7	6:00 pm	A	Parkway
2/8	4:00 pm	H	Van Wert
2/14	6:00 pm	H	Versailles
2/15	5:00 pm	H	St. Marys

**HS Girls Basketball Schedule**

Date	Time	H/A	Opponent
11/26	6:00 pm	A	Versailles
12/5	6:00 pm	H	Ft. Recovery
12/7	12:00 pm	A	Celina
12/12	6:00 pm	H	New Bremen
12/14	1:00 pm	H	Anna
12/19	6:00 pm	A	Minster
12/21	11:00 am	A	Wapakoneta
12/27	6:00 pm	H	Marion Local (V)
12/30	6:00 pm	A	Ft. Recovery (V)
1/2	6:00 pm	H	Jackson Center
1/9	6:00 pm	H	Coldwater
1/11	11:00 am	A	Spencerville
1/14	6:00 pm	A	Ft. Loramie
1/16	6:00 pm	A	New Knoxville
1/18	12:00 pm	A	Crestview
1/23	6:00 pm	H	Ft. Loramie (JV)
1/23	7:15 pm	H	Delphos SJ (V)
1/30	6:00 pm	A	Marion Local
2/1	12:00 pm	A	Bath
2/4	6:00 pm	H	Parkway (V)
2/8	12:00 pm	H	Arcanum



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

— MAYA ANGELOU

Happy New Year

2025



*Wishing you  
peace, love,  
and joy!*

PEACE  
ON EARTH



Joy  
to  
the  
WORLD



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