



JULY 2025

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[www.ekschools.org](http://www.ekschools.org) and Facebook

## PURPLE PRIDE

### *East Knox Local School District From the Superintendent*

Greetings,

The 2025 - 2026 school year is around the corner. The campus is starting to buzz with excitement and activities for the upcoming school year. School starts August 14, 2025, so please think of the safety of our students as the buses start to roll in the mornings and afternoons. We have included a copy of the school calendar with this letter. We have twenty-one new staff members within our district this year. Please help us welcome the following staff to the East Knox Local School District this year.

Shannon Sprang, EKJSHS Principal  
Jayna Svoboda, EKES Intervention Specialist  
Rachael Cox (Journey), EKES Intervention Specialist  
Callie Proper, EKES Intervention Specialist  
Lily Weimann, 5th Grade  
Kristine Dougherty, 5th Grade  
Carolyn O'Brien, EKES Intervention Specialist  
Hailey Smith (Filicky), EKES Intervention Specialist  
Sarah Davis, EKES Social Worker  
Eden Carpenter, EKES Reading Teacher  
Michelle Colopy, EKES Tutor  
Tyler Rosshirt, 8th Science  
Brianna Hickman, EKJSHS Food Service  
Denise Patrick, EKJSHS Food Service  
Emma Barteau, Occupational Therapist  
Tyler Williams, EKJSHS Assistant Principal  
Julia Kelly, EKJSHS School Counselor  
Garrett Bradley, EKJSHS 8th Language Arts  
Sean Stevens, Bus Driver  
Stacy Hagans, Bus Driver

*continued on next page...*

#### **Elementary (K-6 grades)**

23081 Coshocton Road

Howard OH 43028

Phone: 740-599-7000

Mrs. Melissa Moreland, Principal

Mr. David Coleman, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Amanda Wilson, Building Secretary, X3002

Mrs. Krista Reese, Secretary X3003

#### **Jr./Sr. High School (7-12 grades)**

23227 Coshocton Road

Howard OH 43028

Phone: 740-599-7000

Mrs. Shannon Sprang, Principal

Mr. Tyler Williams, Assistant Principal

Mr. Bailey Sprague, Athletic Director.

Mrs. Fawnda Stahl, Building Secretary, x2002

Mrs. Marjorie Williams, Attendance/Athletic Secretary, x2003

Ms. Julia Kelly, Guidance Counselor, x2008

Mrs. Alicia Simmons, Guidance Secretary, x2004

Dr. Ben Snedeker, Director of Student Services/Spec. Ed. Coord., x1008

Ms. Kathleen Herrmann, Student Services/Spec. Ed. Secretary x1088

School District Nurses x2006 or x3006

Transportation Supervisor

Ms. Angela Wells, x1016

#### **East Knox Board Office**

23201 Coshocton Road

Howard, Ohio 43028

Mr. Richard Baird, Superintendent

Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, CPA, Treasurer

Mrs. Tracy Beckett, Assist., Treasurer

Mrs. Kim Grindle, Superintendent, Secretary, 740-599-7000 x1002

#### **East Knox Board Members**

Lindsay Bush-President

Randy Reese-Vice President

Larry Campbell

Alan Huffman

Kathy Tate

*Published to  
bring school  
news  
to the resi-  
dents of  
East Knox  
Local School  
District*



### **Safer Ohio**

School Tip Line

**844.723.3764**

Report concerns for student safety

...continued from front cover

The East Knox Board of Education approved the strategic plan for the district that will drive our work and decisions into the future. Over 25 students, staff, and community members participated in the development of the plan that includes our mission, vision, and core values. Throughout the plan, the value of our community is highlighted with an emphasis on communication, learning, and opportunities.

The plan also includes areas of critical need and targeted growth opportunities in our district and community. We will focus on the **Student Experience** where we will bring opportunities to our students and develop strong skills and relationships as they grow throughout their school experience. **Staff Development** is also important to us to ensure the best training and experience for our staff as needs and requirements change. The **Health and Wellness** of our students and staff will be at the forefront, so they are able to be at their best while they learn and grow. We will continue to grow our partnerships through strategic **Community Engagement** where both the district and community will benefit as they support our students to thrive. Finally, we will continue to be good stewards of our **Finances** within the school district while offering the best programming our community has to provide.

East Knox is a great place, we thank our community for your firm support and partnership.

Sincerely,

*Richard J. Baird*, Superintendent



Congratulation to Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, Treasurer, as Scott Brown presented her with the **Auditor of State Award** in May.



**Looking for a Pediatrician?**  
Hello! I'm Dr. Manny, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as a pediatrician dedicated to the health and well-being of your children. I hope this letter finds you enjoying a wonderful day!

**Dear East Knox Local School District Families,**  
As a pediatrician with years of experience, I've had the privilege of caring for children of all ages, from newborns to teenagers. I completed my medical training at Wayne State School of Medicine in Detroit and residency at St. John Hospital in Detroit, where I developed a deep passion for pediatric care. My background includes extensive work in pediatric cardiology, developmental screenings, and managing common childhood conditions, ensuring every child thrives.

My commitment to your family is simple: to provide compassionate, high-quality care that supports your child's physical, emotional, and developmental needs. Whether it's addressing common run-of-the-mill concerns or more complex medical care, I'm here to offer evidence-based care with a warm, approachable touch. I believe in partnering with families to create a nurturing environment where your child can grow healthy and strong.

At Knox Community Hospital, I offer a full range of pediatric services, including well-child visits, vaccinations, acute illness care, and developmental assessments. I'm available for appointments throughout the week. For urgent concerns, I provide same-day appointments whenever possible, and I offer telehealth consultations for added convenience. We are located at 1339 Coshocton Ave., Mt. Vernon, in Wright Family Medical Pavilion, 3rd floor.

To connect with me, you can schedule an appointment Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM by calling our office at 740.399.3745. My staff is ready to assist with booking, insurance questions, or any concerns you may have. For more information about our pediatric clinic, please visit our website at [www.kch.org/pediatrics](http://www.kch.org/pediatrics).

I'm excited to serve the East Knox community and look forward to meeting your family. Together, we'll keep your children healthy, happy, and ready to shine in school and beyond.

Warm regards,  
*Dr. Manny*  
740.399.3745  
[www.kch.org/Pediatrics](http://www.kch.org/Pediatrics)

Emmanuel Monahan, MD  
Knox Community Hospital

## COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

The East Knox Local School District appreciates our community and the partnerships with our community. The students of our district benefit daily from the support of the East Knox Community. Our website offers resources and information from our community partners. Please reach out to our district or the buildings if you are interested in a Community Partnership.

### EAST KNOX COMMUNITY PARTNERS

#### Please help support our community partners

First Name	Last	Business Name	Street Address	City	Zip
Denver	Bailey	American Mobile Tint	126 Grand Ridge Road	Howard	43028
Merry	Cassetto	AV Insurance Group LLC	21735 Plank Road Ste. E	Howard	43028
Ron	Bostic	Boss and Son Excavating	26060 New Guilford Road	Bladensburg	43005
		Burrata's Woodfired Pizza	668 North Sandusky Street	Mount Vernon	43050
		Danville Feed and Supply	608 S Market St., Box 10	Danville	43014
		Donley Ford of Mt. Vernon	1455 Coshocton Ave.	Mount Vernon	43050
Darcy	Knight	East Knox Athletic Boosters	PO Box 15	Howard	43028
Althea	Dye	East Knox Lions Club	18920 Nunda Road	Howard	43028
Larry	Wolford	Howard Hilton	23379 Coshocton Road	Howard	43028
Mallory	Hysong	Hysong Tree Service	11069 Pineview Lane	St. Louisville	43071
		Indian Bear Cork and Coffee	403 N. Whitewoman St.	Coshocton	43812
Paula	Aurand	Killbuck Savings Bank Co.	P.O. Box 407	Killbuck	44637
		KN Excavation LLC	PO Box 183	Martinsburg	43037
Kevin	Henthorn	Knox County Veterans Services	105 East Chestnut Street	Mount Vernon	43050
Craig & Persophone	Gilmore	Kokosing Valley, Inc.	25860 Coshocton Road	Howard	43028
Seth	Dennison	Legacy Signs LLC	19483 Waterford Road	Fredericktown	43019
Mike Mazza		Mazza's Restaurant, MTV	11587 Upper Gilchrist Road	Mount Vernon	43050
Dean	Opfer	MD Group Properties LLC	777 Valleywood Heights Dr.	Howard	43028
Chad	Smith	Milestone Benefits Agency	521 Village Park Drive	Powell	43065
		Mohican Sports Medicine	112 Harcourt Rd	Mount Vernon	43050
Mr.	Mortellaro	Mortellaro McDonalds	15 Sandalwood Drive	Newark	43055
Darcy	Knight	Ralston Art Memorial	23274 Coshocton Road	Howard	43028
Sam	Miller	Sam Miller LLC	1684 Venture Dr., Suite B	Mount Vernon	43050
Kenton	Mickley	Spearman Financial Services	710 South Main St., B	Mount Vernon	43050
		The Pub, AV LLC	22001 Coshocton Road	Howard	43028

EAST KNOX LOCAL SCHOOLS

2025-26 CALENDAR

MONTHS	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	STUDENT DAYS	Quarter Breakdowns		
AUGUST					1	4	5	6	7	8	<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	12	12	
SEPTEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19		22	23	24	25	26	29	30			21	21		
OCTOBER						6	7	8	9	10]	<del>X</del>	[14	15	dst	17		ele	jsh	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	22	8]41[14	
NOVEMBER	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21		24	25	26	27	28					17	17		
DECEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19]		22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		14	14]45		
JANUARY						1	2	[5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	<del>X</del>	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	jsh	18	18	
FEBRUARY	2	jsh	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20		23	24	25	26	27					19	19		
MARCH	2	3	4	ele	6	9	ele	11	12	13]	[16	17	18	19	<del>X</del>		23	24	25	26	27	30	31			20	10]47[10		
APRIL						1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	19	19	
MAY						1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15		18	19	20	21	<del>X</del>	25	26	27	28	29	15	15]44
JUNE	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19		22	23	24	25	26	29	30			0	0		
JULY						1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	0	0
																										177			

- = Teacher Work Day-No School for Students
- = Teacher Work - 2 Hour Delay for Student
- = First and Last Day of School
- = No School for Students & Staff
- dst** = District Wide Parent/Teacher Conferences-School in Session
- ele** = Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences-School in Session
- jsh** = Jr./Sr. High Parent/Teacher Conferences-School in Session
- ] [** = Ending] Beginning of Quarters (Grading Periods)

GRADING PERIOD:				DAYS	
Quarter 1	41	86			
Quarter 2	45				
Quarter 3	47	91			
Quarter 4	44				
TOTALS	177				

Graduation: Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2 p.m.

Board approve revision: 06/18/25

# East Knox Local School District

## 2025 & Beyond Strategic Plan



Follow our progress at [www.ekschools.org](http://www.ekschools.org)

### The School District

The East Knox Local School District Board of Education and Administration convened a diverse group of community members, staff, students and administrators to consider and discuss the future direction of East Knox Schools. The group, known as the Core Team, met multiple times to develop a strategic plan for the district. The resulting plan includes newly defined vision and mission statements, core values, and five overarching district goals. Going forward all district initiatives will be aligned with these goals, and their progress will be regularly monitored and evaluated.



### Vision

Blending Traditions with Visions of our Future

### Mission

East Knox Local School District is the heart and foundation of the community. Teachers, staff and families partner to prepare our students for lifelong excellence.

### Our Core Values

At East Knox Local Schools, Bulldogs value:

- Our safe and supportive community
- Preparation leading to new opportunities
- Relevant, clear, and consistent communication
- Learning and growing throughout life



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION**

Division of Board and Management Services  
[www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

8050 N. High Street, Suite 100 | Columbus, Ohio 43235

Our Goals

Student Experience

East Knox Local School District:

- Offers relevant and abundant enrichment opportunities for our students
- Informs our students of educational and career opportunities through strong and intentional partnerships
- Develops strong social and interpersonal skills in our students

Staff Development

East Knox Local School District prepares staff that embrace a culture of excellence through a variety of incentives and innovative solutions.

Health and Wellness

East Knox Local School District assures our staff and students access to ongoing trusted resources and early identification of issues impacting barriers to equitable education.

Community Engagement

East Knox Local School District promotes community engagement through welcoming volunteers and seeking out service opportunities in our community for our students, allowing generations to come together.

Finance

East Knox Local School District demonstrates fiscal responsibility by prioritizing our resources and assets to provide an enriching experience for our students.

We believe if we are accountable to these goals we will continue to improve, achievement will increase, our staff will prosper and decisions about doing what is best for students will be clear.

Moving forward, staff members and administrators throughout the district will share in the planning and implementation of initiatives and strategies within each goal area. As they are completed, new projects will be added to the plan.

2025 Strategic Planning Team	
Board of Education	
Lindsay Bush Larry Campbell Alan Huffman Randy Reese Kathy Tate	
Administration, Staff and Students	
Ariel Atkinson Richard Baird Mikhailon Brady Jessica Busenburg Ron Fannin Tisha Melick Megan Moledor Melissa Moreland	David Nally Sheri Ryals Dr. Benjamin Snedeker Kailee Wallace Bria Warner Shawn Wears Audrey Williams Katrina Wobbecke
Community Members	
Chodd Armfelt Julie Brodie Merry Cassetto Brooke Fox Larry Gibbs Jeff Gottke Julia Greenwich-Suggs Misty Hammond	Nathan Keirns Darcy Knight Lindsey Lamp Rebecca Nourse Dr. Heidi Orosh Jim Riggle Emily Scardena Chris Wolford



For more information about the strategic plan of East Knox Local Schools and to follow the progress being made, please visit [www.ekschools.org](http://www.ekschools.org).

## ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The East Knox District is made up of Knox and parts of Licking and Coshocton Counties. Our district covers an area of 144 square miles and geographically services the community of Howard, Apple Valley, Bladensburg, and Millwood.

East Knox Junior/Senior High and Elementary school buildings are located on U.S. 36 in the town of Howard. Both are located on the same campus and are situated in beautiful rural settings which complement the learning environment. There are several colleges within commuting distance, and the area provides numerous cultural and recreational opportunities.

We encourage you to visit our schools and facilities. The East Knox staff and residents strive to maintain high standards for education in our schools, working together for our children, our future leaders.

**STAFF**—A professional staff of approximately 81 licensed personnel and administrators provide an excellent learning atmosphere for district students. A dedicated teaching force with quality education is offered in an environment which promotes excellence, knowledge and skills. The East Knox Schools are a reflection of the community they serve. With strong support of the parents and interested caring citizens, this district will continue to improve as partners in education.

**ABOUT THE AREA**—Knox County is located in central Ohio and is within an hour of northern Columbus, Mansfield and Ashland. Knox County is home to Mount Vernon Nazarene University and Kenyon College. Mount Vernon is an "All American City" and provides many nationally known shopping venues while still maintaining the small town feeling.

*Contactless Payments available  
Pay for Student Meals and Fees Online*



**East Knox Local School District** is excited to offer **MySchoolBucks®!** This online payment service provides a quick and easy way to add money to your student's **meal accounts or pay school fees** using a credit/debit card or electronic check. We ask that you avoid cash/check payments in person as much as possible.

You can also view recent purchases, check balances, and set-up low balance alerts for **FREE!**

### **MySchoolBucks provides:**

- ◆ **Convenience** - Available **24/7 on the web** or through our **mobile app** for your smartphone
- ◆ **Efficiency** - Make payments for all your students, even if they attend different schools within the district. Eliminate the need for your students to take money to school.
- ◆ **Control** - Set low balance alerts, view account activity, recurring/automatic payments & more!
- ◆ **Flexibility** - Make payments using credit/debit cards and electronic checks.
- ◆ **Security** - MySchoolBucks adheres to the highest security standards.

### **Enrollment is easy!**

1. Go to [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com) or download the mobile app and register for a free account.
2. Add your students using their school name and student ID.
3. Make a payment to your students' accounts with your credit/debit card or electronic check **with no fees**.

If you have any questions, contact MySchoolBucks directly:

- ◆ [support@myschoolbucks.com](mailto:support@myschoolbucks.com)
- ◆ (855) 832-5226
- ◆ Visit [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com) and click on Help

Thank you,  
*East Knox Local School District*

# Purple Pride

*Published to bring school news to the residents of East Knox Local School District*

East Knox Local School District  
23201 Coshocton Road  
Howard OH 43028  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #51  
MOUNT  
VERNON, OHIO  
43050

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

CAR/RT  
HOWARD POSTAL CUSTOMER  
HOWARD, OH 43028

East Knox Local School District

*"The mind is not a vessel to be filled,  
but a fire to be kindled."*

*-Plutarch*

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**—This publication, a report to the residents of the East Knox Local School District, fulfills the requirements of section 3313.94 of the Ohio Revised Code. Suggestions or questions should be directed to the Board of Education Office, 23201 Coshocton Road, Howard, OH 43028.



**Safer Ohio**  
School Tip Line

**844.723.3764**

Report concerns for student safety