



April 2024

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Purple Pride

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

East Knox Local School District

Message From the Superintendent

Greetings,

It is with bittersweet emotions that I write this message as I begin my last three months as your superintendent. On July 31st I will retire my position as the Superintendent of East Knox Local School District.

During my time in the district I have made many friends, enjoyed working with a talented group of professional educators and staff. It has been an honor to get to know the many fine students and families here at East Knox.

Although I am leaving the district, the district will always hold a special place in my heart and in my life.

One of my most important goals when I started was to create an environment where everyone felt like they were someone and to create a learning environment that focused solely on student success and student well-being. This staff has consistently placed the education, care and nurturing of students first. Again, it has been my pleasure to serve this community as your superintendent. I look forward to our paths crossing in the future.

"Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think possible."

James P. Peterson



Swearing in two new board members: Kathy Tate and Alan Huffman. Lindsay Bush—swearing in for a second term.

Elementary (K-6 grades)

23081 Coshocton Road
Howard OH 43028
Phone: 740-599-7000
Mrs. Melissa Moreland, Principal
Mr. Dave Coleman, Assist. Principal
Mrs. Amanda Wilson, Secretary,
X3002
Mrs. Krista Reese, Secretary/Aide X3003

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

23227 Coshocton Road
Howard OH 43028
Phone: 740-599-7000
Mr. Cody Reese, Principal
Mr. Scott Brickner, Asst. Principal/A.D.
Mrs. Fawnda Stahl, Building Secretary, x2002
Ms. Marjorie Williams, Attenden, x2003
Ms. Stephanie Whitesel, Guidance Counselor,
x2008
Mrs. Alicia Simmons, Guidance Secretary,
x2004

East Knox Board Office

23201 Coshocton Road
Howard, Ohio 43028
Mr. James P. Peterson, Superintendent
Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, CPA, Treasurer
Mrs. Tracy Beckett, Assist. Treasurer
Mrs. Kim Grindle, Board Secretary
740-599-7000 x1002

Mr. Ben Snedeker, Director of Student Services/
Spec. Ed. Coord., x1008
Ms. Kathleen Herrmann, Student Services/Spec.
Ed. Secretary x1088

School District Nurses x2006 or 3006

Transportation Supervisor
Ms. Angela Wells, x1016

East Knox Board Members

Lindsay Bush-President
Randy Reese-Vice President
Larry Campbell
Alan Huffman
Kathy Tate

Elementary Happenings

East Knox Elementary received a certification of appreciation for participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Way to go Fourth Grade!



COUNTY SPELLING BEE

A follow up to our County Spelling Bee: All participants from East Knox grades 5-8 were in the top eight places in the Knox County Spelling Bee. There were participants represented from all the area Knox County Schools and we had the following winners: **Ava Hoobler**, Fifth Grade, placed eighth overall, **Julia McNeely**, Eighth Grade placed sixth overall, **Callie May**, Sixth Grade, placed third overall, and **Lucas Colopy**, Seventh Grade, was the runner-up winner and second place overall. These students put in a lot of hours studying and it definitely showed! Great Job!!

East Knox, Talented and Gifted Specialist, Keri Campbell, has been doing wonderful things in her classroom with her students. East Knox had two finalists in the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) essay contest: **Ava Hoobler** and **Maliyah Brady**. Maliyah not only won the county, but also went on to win at the District level. These two young ladies were recognized on Saturday, February 10th at the Memorial Theater. Congratulations, ladies!

January Student of the Month



Elementary Happenings



February Student of the Month

For National Resource Officer Day, the Elementary students did a clap through for Deputy Jones. Students held up signs and gave Deputy Jones high fives as he walked through the hallways. The entire student body and staff signed posters to show their appreciation and the fourth grade student council had balloons and a snack box that they presented to him. The role of a school resource officer is often overlooked, yet plays a crucial role in fostering a positive and safe learning environment. Today we wanted to thank Deputy Jones for all that he does for each and everyone of us. Our school is lucky to have such a friendly, fun and caring personality to keep us safe. Thank-you Deputy Jones and Deputy Nally for keeping our campus safe!



Resource Officer and a Deputy Sheriff and her K9 Dog visit the Elementary Students during their Bulldog Pride Day.



PRESCHOOL ENROLLING

for the **2024/2025 school year!**

A play-based learning program
for children ages 3-5



Half day sessions, Monday-Thursday

Tuition based on household income,
maximum \$130/month.

Focus on mastering preschool academic
standards in preparation for future learning.

Providing individual attention and support
through low staff: student ratio.

EAST KNOX PRESCHOOL

23081 Coshocton Road, Howard, OH 43028

For more information or to enroll:

Email: preschool@knoxesc.org

Website: www.knoxesc.org

Phone: (740) 393-6980



Program operated by Knox ESC



EAST KNOX

PRESCHOOL NEWS - THIRD QUARTER



An update on what is happening at the
East Knox Preschool.

Currently...

- 41 students are enrolled in the classroom
- 8 students served on IEPs
- 9 additional students served on IEPs in other programs or socialization class
- 29 students will transition to kindergarten from our classrooms.

Upcoming...

- 18 enrollment applications submitted for the 24/25 school year.
- 36 available spots open for enrollment.
- Preschool screening for 24/25 scheduled for 3/15.

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EAST KNOX KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2024-25 school year is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, May 7**, and **Thursday, May 9, 2024**, at the elementary building. If you have a child or know of a child within our district who will be **five years old on or before August 1, 2024**, please notify the elementary school. Registration packets will be sent to parents or guardians upon completion of the following form. The scheduled time for your child's screening will be mailed to you. **Please return this form by April 22, 2024.**

Child's name _____ Child's date of birth _____

Parent or guardian _____

Address _____ P.O. Box _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone# _____

Male _____ Female _____ Email _____

Return this completed form by either mail: 23081 Coshocton Rd., Howard, Ohio 43028,
fax: 740-599-6397 OR email: awilson@ekschools.org

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

East Knox students who had perfect attendance and were on honor and principal roll spent the morning of January 31 at Colonial Lanes as part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program at the high school. Last week, junior high students were treated to pizza and a movie at the school. The school would like to thank Levi and Lane at Colonial Lanes for hosting the event for the students.



The PBIS Committee sent out letters to surrounding businesses inquiring donations for the new program that is being put into place. The District and the East Knox Students would like to thank the following for their donations to the East Knox JH/HS PBIS program:

Thank you!
Apple Valley Insurance Group
Apple Valley Storage
Killbuck Savings Bank



*Picture (L to R) - East Knox FFA Animal Management Career Development Event team members **Ava Page** and **Miranda Fawcett** at the State FFA Event held at the Kasich Building at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus.*

EAST KNOX FFA COMPETES IN STATE ANIMAL MANAGEMENT CDE

Recently, on November 14, two East Knox FFA members competed in the State Animal Management Career Development Event held in the Kasich Building at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus where they placed 18th out of a group of teams from across Ohio. Team members were freshmen Ava Page and Miranda Fawcett. Individually, Page placed 18th, just four points out of the top ten, and Fawcett finished 20th out of 121 individuals. The top ten teams and individuals receive awards.

To qualify for the State finals the participants had to place in the top 150 scores in the online general knowledge test taken prior to the state event with questions over dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, ferrets, amphibians, reptiles, birds, hedgehogs, sugar gliders, and pocket pets. 867 students in the state completed the online examination.

At the finals members had to identify dog breeds, small and large varieties of birds, reptiles and amphibians, breeds of cats, rodents and miscellaneous animals, breeds of rabbits, bird feeds, dog and cat products and supplies, bird products and supplies, reptile and amphibian products and supplies, and small animal products and supplies. Additionally, each contestant performed four practicums. The practicums consisted of handling and sexing hamsters, selecting cages and accessories for rabbits, explaining and evaluating nutrition requirements of painted turtles, and recognizing and evaluating health requirements of canaries. The categories are the pocket pet practicum, the dog/cat/guinea pig/chinchilla/ferret/hedgehog/sugar glider practicum, the reptile and amphibian practicum, and the bird practicum.

The purpose of the Animal Management Career Development Event is to provide students the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills associated with companion animals in the pet industry. This is the third time that East Knox FFA has had a team in the State Animal Management CDE finishing 18th all three times.



EAST KNOX FFA ELECTS 2024-2025 OFFICERS

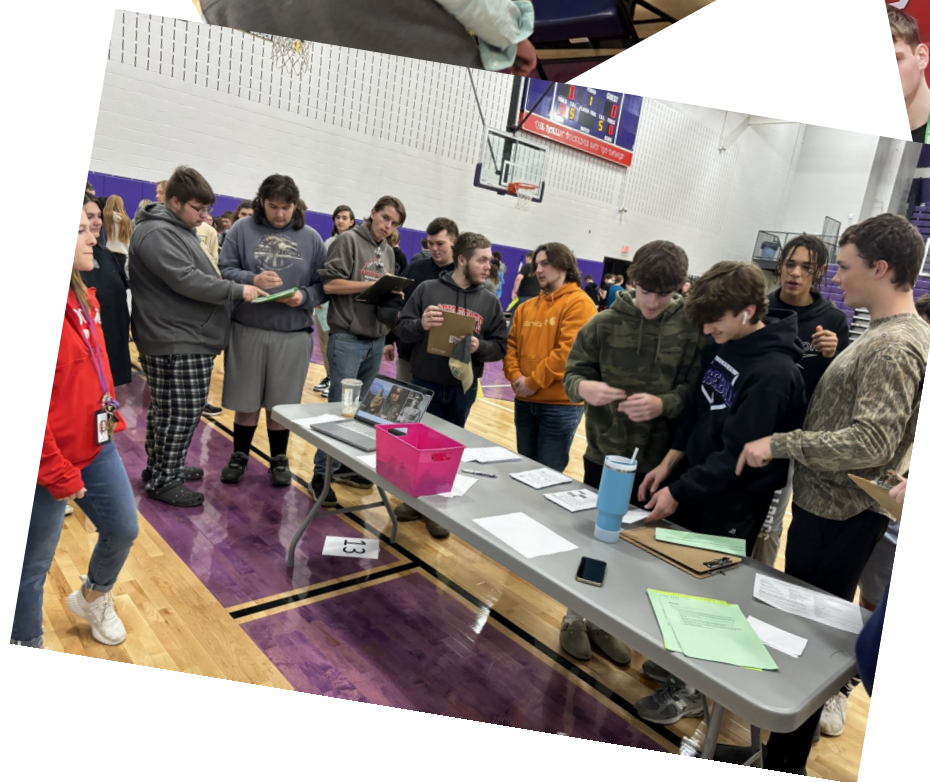
East Knox FFA members recently elected new officers for the 2024-2025 FFA year. These students will run the business operations of the chapter for the next year.

They are **President Dylan Springer**, **Vice President Hayden Baker**, **Secretary Mackenzie Wilson**, **Treasurer Blake Elliott**, **Reporter Aiden Kapper**, **Sentinel Quentin White**, **Student Advisor Braylon Evans**, **Historian Kylie Griffith**, **Parliamentarian Miranda Fawcett**, and **Chaplain Will Stokes**. They will take over duties of their office at the March FFA meeting.

The newly elected officers will attend District 7 FFA Officer Training on May 7 at Linden-McKinley STEM Academy High School, where they will be instructed on the duties and responsibilities of their respective offices. State FFA officers will also address the group of members representing some of the 31 schools in FFA District 7.

Picture (L to R) – Front row - **Braylon Evans**, **Hayden Baker**, **Dylan Springer**, **Blake Elliott**, and **Aiden Kapper**.

Back row - **Quentin White**, **Mackenzie Wilson**, **Will Stokes**, **Kylie Griffith**, and **Miranda Fawcett**.



Winter Sports Report

Girls Basketball

This was a growing year for the Bulldogs Girls Basketball Team with only one Senior on the roster (**Jayden Annett**) and a lot of younger Bulldog players getting playing time. The girls finished the season with a 7-16 overall record (3-9 in the KMAC) which resulted in a 6th place finish in the conference. In the playoffs, the Bulldogs battled, but fell on the road in the Sectional Final to #1 seed Mechanicsburg. Multiple players earned postseason awards on the season including: **Sydney Opfer** who was named KMAC 1st Team and District 11 First Team; **Isabelle Bostic** who was named KMAC Honorable Mention and District 11 Honorable Mention and **Jayden Annett** who was named KMAC All-Academic.

Swimming

We had only one swimmer this year, Senior **Hiba Ezzarouali** who practiced and competed with the Mount Vernon squad. Hiba has improved dramatically over the last 3 years in swim, and focused on mainly freestyle and back events her senior season. At the Sectional meet at Columbus School for Girls, Hiba finished 26th in the 100 Free and 20th in the 100 Backstroke. Considering there are only two divisions in swimming, those are excellent times against very tough competition! While she didn't move on to Districts, **Hiba Ezzarouali** improved tremendously during her time in swimming!

Boys Basketball

The Boys Basketball team had a tough season this year, compounded by injuries to their senior leaders. Therefore, the younger players on the team needed to step up and compete as hard as they could throughout the season and improved as the season progressed including a win at Danville. The team as a whole went 3-20 on the season (2-10 in the KMAC) resulting in a 7th place finish in the conference. In the playoffs, the Bulldogs fell in the Sectional Final to #1 seed Columbus Academy. **Corbin Poff-Wengerd** was named KMAC 2nd team while **Bryer Korosec** was named KMAC Honorable Mention and **Ethan Rine** named to the KMAC All-Academic Team.

Wrestling

This year, we had two wrestlers competing and practicing with the Mount Vernon Team: **Senior Dmetrius Negron** and **Junior Blake Elliott**. Both worked very hard throughout the season, and improved in time for the playoffs. At the KMAC Tournament, Blake was the 190 lb. champion and was named by the KMAC as the Wrestler of the KMAC Tournament. At Sectionals, Blake repeated the championship run by winning his 190 lb. weight class. Unfortunately, Dmetrius was knocked out at Sectionals after competing hard all season. In Blake's case, he continued on the tournament trail finishing in 3rd at Districts, punching his ticket to States. At the State Championship, Blake became the first wrestler on the podium in East Knox history, finishing 6th and securing All-Ohio honors. Great job Blake!

Bowling

The Bowling Teams had an amazing year, with the boys team repeatedly breaking school records, and winning back-to-back KMAC titles following an undefeated season. The girls team also had an excellent season, finishing 2nd in the KMAC, and then winning the KMAC Tournament at the end of the year. The Boys team finished 2nd at Sectionals, 2nd at Districts and then finished 12th at the State Championship-the first time ANY East Knox Bowling team has made the State Championship. As a result, for the first time ever all 5 starting boys bowlers (**Will Jensen, Lane Lashley, Blake Calhoon, Dylan Reed** and **Jordan Hull**) SWEPT the KMAC 1st Team Honors, and Head Coach Chip Pozderac was named KMAC Boys Bowling Coach of the Year. In addition, **Will Jensen** was named the KMAC Bowler of the Year and **Jordan Hull** was named KMAC All-Academic. For the Girls Team, **Olivia Nastasi** was named KMAC 1st Team; KMAC Girls Bowler of the Year and KMAC All-Academic. In addition, **Miale Hurlow** was named KMAC 1st Team and **McKayla Blakely** was named KMAC 2nd Team. On the playoff trail at the District Championship, **Olivia Nastasi** rolled a 572 series and finished 3rd, qualifying her for the State Championship, making Olivia the first girl in East Knox history to make the State Championship. Olivia finished 27th at the State Championship with a 534 series. Congratulations to both bowling teams on a truly historic season!



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We don't stop going to school when we graduate."

~~Carol Burnett~~

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.



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