



December 2023

Check us out at:
www.ekschools.org and Facebook

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

December 2023

Greetings,

As we prepare for the Holiday Season I want to share with you some information regarding our district.



Our district is currently at a 47% poverty rate and those numbers continue to rise. November 11, we as a school community, were able to provide 41 Thanksgiving meals for our most needy families in our district. This mission was accomplished by a number of dedicated staff that donated their time and efforts to provide these meals. It is the district's wish to continue our efforts to make sure all our students are provided their basic nutritional needs to help them be successful.

On November 13th we had an assembly, *"Do it for James Foundation"*, for our 6th through 12th grade students to learn more regarding the dangers of social media. Our students heard first hand from the parents who lost their 17 year old son, who was a Senior attending Streetsboro High School in Ohio. James Wood, their son, committed suicide due to sextortion. The parents and their message were very well received. Our student body asked Mr. and Mrs. Wood questions they had after the presentation. Later that evening our parents were invited to listen to our guests share their gut wrenching, heartbreaking story and the warnings they had for us, as parents and children.

During this Thanksgiving season I am very thankful to have this opportunity to serve this community.

Gratefully,

James P. Peterson, Superintendent

"Unity is strength. When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

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
Dean Opfer
Derrick Steinmetz



Do it for James Foundation

The Do It for James Foundation (DIFJF) is a nonprofit organization that works with communities to increase awareness, provide support and education to both parents and children on crime against students, while also supplying a wide range of assistance for those in need.

www.letsdifj.org

330-554-7482



More photos on page 11

Mrs. Carpenter's Cooking Class

"Cooking is like painting or writing a song. Just as there are only so many notes or colors, there are only so many flavors – it's how you combine them that sets you apart." – Wolfgang Puck

Whether or not students in Amber Carpenter's principles of food class go on to culinary careers, they're learning kitchen skills to last a lifetime.

The class of cooking and baking focuses on nutrition, following recipes and proper measurements, while emphasizing safety, sanitation and correct use of kitchen tools.

Mrs. Carpenter has been East Knox's family consumer sciences teacher for nine years. Her one-semester elective classes also include Fashion, Career and College Readiness, Textiles and interior design. But the majority of her day is devoted to food. Students who complete principles of food (there are two classes daily) may elect to go on to culinary fundamentals then global foods. After global foods, some students may opt to enroll in culinary arts at the Knox County Career Center.

Most of the students in principles of food won't become chefs, but they're learning basic cooking and baking techniques – and more.

"My principles of food class also teaches basic life skills – teamwork, communication, collaboration – and the kids don't even realize it," Mrs. Carpenter said.

The classroom includes four kitchen units, each with an electric range, microwave, counter space and sink. Usually, four students work at each unit.

"I tell the students my basic rule is this: When I demonstrate something, pay attention, ask questions and take notes – good notes. I'm showing you what you need to do," Mrs. Carpenter said.

So far the students have made orange muffins, homemade salsa, chicken pot pie cups (using canned chicken) and strawberry-banana smoothies. Soon, they will learn to make homemade mashed potatoes. They will bake apple bites and present them appetizingly on a plate. Along the way they will learn how to halve and double recipes.

The orange muffin project required each group of students to substitute alternative ingredients to compensate for circumstances of egg allergies, gluten-free, and lactose intolerance. Students then sampled each other's work, scoring them on appearance, color, aroma, texture and flavor before discussing how recipes could be improved.

Freshman **Savannah Peffers** said she likes to bake and cook at home.

"I signed up for the course to learn more, and I thought it would be interesting to see how others cook," she said.

Zach Rinebolt, also a freshman, said he helps in the kitchen at home.

"I selected this course because I enjoy cooking. I get to take home some of the things that I bake," he said.

While cooking and baking are the fun parts of class, Mrs. Carpenter also emphasizes cleanliness.

"I give the kids advance warning that points will be taken off their scores if their kitchen area isn't clean, including having the floor swept," she said.

Mrs. Carpenter's emphasis on paying attention and taking good notes was illustrated in a story she recalled – with a chuckle – about a class a few years ago. The assignment was to bake an angel food cake.

"I explained that they should use two bowls when preparing the eggs," she said. "One bowl was for cracking the eggs and removing any pieces of broken shell before transferring the eggs to the second bowl."

"One group didn't pay close attention. When they tasted their finished cake, they asked, 'Why is it crunchy?'"



Their kitchen tools raised, students surround teacher Amber Carpenter as they prepare to begin their principles of food class. Most are freshmen; a couple are sophomores.



Colton Armstrong pours batter into a mixing bowl steadied by fellow freshman **Alaina Nastasi**.



Freshman **Zach Rinebolt** prepares to bake orange muffins.



2023-2024 East Knox
Students who Attend the
Knox County Career
Center

Elementary Staff in
their Barbie Costumes,
the theme this Hallow-
een.



Elementary Spelling Bee

The elementary had their fifth and sixth grade level spelling bee on Tuesday, November 7th.

Judges for this special event were Ms. Keri Campbell, Talented and Gifted Specialist, Mrs. JoAnn Buckingham, retired teacher from East Knox, and Mrs. Paula Blubaugh, also a retired teacher from East Knox.

The champions and runner-up contestants were:

Sixth Grade Runner Up: **Collin Beltz**
Sixth Grade Champion: **Callie May**

Fifth Grade Runner Up: **Jace Daugherty**
Fifth Grade Champion: **Ava Hoobler**

Students did an outstanding job! Congratulations to all.



Elementary Student Spelling Bee Participants.

FOUR EAST KNOX FFA MEMBERS RECEIVE AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

Recently, at the 96th National FFA Convention held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, East Knox FFA members **Trenton Comer**, **Kalvin Gallwitz**, **Alexandria Magers**, and **Joci Totten** received the American FFA Degree. These four were among 4,423 American Degrees awarded nationally with 457 of those being from Ohio. The degrees are sponsored by Case IH, Elanco, and Syngenta as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Each recipient of the American FFA Degree received a gold American FFA Degree key, certificate and matted frame after being recognized on stage.

Requirements for the degree include earning at least \$10,000 from SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) projects, productively investing at least \$7,500, serving as an FFA officer or committee member, participating in FFA career development events, participating in FFA leadership activities, completing school and community activities, and having a satisfactory grade point average and school attendance. The American Degree is the fourth and final degree that can be attained in the FFA and normally goes to less than 1/2 percent of the national membership annually.

Trenton Comer's SAE projects include working as a maintenance tech at the feed mill at Trillium Egg Farm in Croton, job placement at Mow and Go, as well as placement at Ohio Truck where he was a welder/fabricator. Trenton also started a small welding business Comer's Custom Fabrication. He also completed various home improvement projects. He served as the 2021-2022 chapter Student Advisor and was the 2020-2021 chapter Parliamentarian. Trenton has competed in forestry, Greenland quiz, parliamentary procedure, poultry, and agricultural technology and mechanics career development events. He attended state and national FFA conventions, state leadership nights, and district officer training. Trenton is the son of Shane Comer and Tara Mertler of Millwood.

Alexandria Magers' SAE projects include job placement at the Magers' Family Farm along with raising and showing market hogs and market beef steers at the Knox County Fair and completing various home improvement projects. She served as the 2020-2021 East Knox FFA Treasurer where she received a State Gold Rating and the 2021-2022 chapter President. Alexandria has competed in various Career Development Events including Forestry, Urban Soils, Novice and Advanced Parliamentary Procedure, Wildlife Management, Nursery/Landscape, Milk Quality and Products, Envirothon, Environmental Natural Resources, Food Science, Farm Business Management, Creed Speaking, and Agronomy. She has competed on the National-level representing Ohio in Milk Quality and Products CDE in Indianapolis and the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma. Alexandria has attended the State and National FFA Conventions, Ohio Leadership Conference, and District 7 Officer Training. She has assisted the chapter with the Thanksgiving food drive and has assisted with various volunteering and community service activities. Alexandria is the daughter of Dan and Anna-marie Magers of Howard.

Joci Totten's SAE projects include working at Kroger in the dairy department where she conditioned dairy products, checked product quality and dates, and stocked products. She also worked at Chad Rine's Chicken Farm and raised and showed market hogs at the Knox County Fair. She served as the 2019-2020 East Knox FFA Treasurer where she received a State Gold Rating and the 2020-2021 chapter Secretary where she also earned a State Gold Rating. Joci has competed on many career development event teams including the 2019-2020 Agricultural Soils team that placed first in the State and qualified to represent Ohio in the National Contest in Oklahoma. Joci has also competed in the career development



Picture (L to R) - American FFA Degree Recipients from East Knox FFA - Calvin Gallwitz, Alexandria Magers, Joci Totten, and Trenton Comer.

events of Poultry, Novice and Advanced Parliamentary Procedure, Beginning Prepared Public Speaking, and Job Interview. She has attended the State and National FFA Conventions and District 7 Officer Training. She has completed many hours of community service/volunteering and has assisted with numerous chapter activities. Joci is the daughter of Joe and Lori Totten of Walhonding.

Kalvin Gallwitz's SAE projects include working as a general laborer at Central Ohio Farmers Coop, job placement at Gallwitz Farms, Sundown Acres, Beatty Farms, Kidwell Farm, and Morningstar Labradors and raising and showing beef steers and feeders at the Knox County Fair, as well as completing various home improvement projects. He served as the 2018-2019 Chapter Treasurer where he received a State Gold Rating. Gallwitz has competed on seven top ten career development event teams including the 2017 Milk Quality and Products team that placed 18th in the nation, the 2018 Nursery Landscape team that placed 20th in the nation, the 2018 Forestry team that placed 3rd at U.S. Eastern Regional event in Massachusetts, and the 2019 Agricultural Soils team that competed in Oklahoma. Calvin has also competed in the career development events of poultry, greenhand quiz, animal management, agronomy, farm business management, floriculture, parliamentary procedure, food science, and agricultural mechanical and technical systems. He has attended the State and National FFA Conventions, State 212/360 Conference, and District Officer Training. Calvin is the son of Kevin and Crystal Gallwitz of Bladensburg.

EAST KNOX FFA FIRST IN EASTERN REGION NATIONAL MILK QUALITY & PRODUCTS CDE

The East Knox FFA recently represented the state of Ohio and competed in the Eastern Regional National FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event held at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts on September 14-16, 2023. Juniors **Dylan Springer**, **Hayden Baker** and **Aiden Kapper** and graduate **Hailey Frazee** placed first out of a field of FFA teams representing the 18 states in the Eastern Region of the United States. Individually, all four team members placed in the top eight with **Dylan Springer** finishing third, **Hayden Baker** placing fourth, **Hailey Frazee** finishing fifth, and **Aiden Kapper** ranking eighth. The top five teams and the top nine individuals in the eastern region received awards for their ranking at the banquet held on Saturday night at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The team qualified for the Eastern Regional CDE by placing second in the State Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event held at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus last March. Individually, in the State contest, **Springer** placed third, **Baker** finished 21st, and **Frazee** finished 47th out of 131 contestants.

In the event competitors had to identify off-flavors and intensity of the flavor in 10 milk samples; recognize dairy and nondairy products and determine milk fat percentage or vegetable fat in the samples; identify cheeses from a list of 20 and complete a cheese matrix including moisture and fat content, origin, pasta filata, how it was ripened, and brine or surface salted; complete a California Mastitis Test on milk samples; and complete a written test including problem solving questions.



Juniors **Dylan Springer**, **Hayden Baker** and **Aiden Kapper** and graduate **Hailey Frazee** placed first

The Milk Quality & Products event is an educational activity designed as a practical method of teaching students to perform hands-on skills and to identify various dairy products and quality problems associated with milk. This is the fifth time that East Knox FFA has competed nationally in the Milk Quality & Products contest and the 15th year that a team has placed in the top ten in the state.



*Picture (L to R) **Weston Bostic, Hayden Baker, Isabelle Bostic, and Rylan Winkler** - East Knox FFA third place in State and National Qualifying Urban Soils Career Development Event team.*

EAST KNOX FFA THIRD IN STATE URBAN SOILS CDE, ADVANCES TO NATIONALS

Recently, the East Knox FFA Urban Soils Career Development Event team placed third in the state event held on October 14 in Fairfield County at the Lamp Family Farm on Landis Road east of Amanda. The team will now represent Ohio in the National FFA Homesite Evaluation Contest next May in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Urban team members were Hayden Baker, Isabelle Bostic, Weston Bostic, and Rylan Winkler. Weston Bostic finished as the 5th individual in the state with Baker placing 13th, Winkler finishing 15th, and Isabelle Bostic placing 90th out of 164 competitors from across Ohio.

East Knox earned a berth in the state urban contest after placing first out of 16 teams in the district 7 contest conducted earlier in Pickaway County near Circleville. The top five teams from each of the state's ten FFA districts qualify for the state, making a field of fifty teams. Individually in the district event, Hayden Baker placed second, Dylan Springer finished sixth, Rylan Winkler placed 10th, Isabelle Bostic was 19th and Weston Bostic finished 27th out of 70 competitors.

Prior to the district contest East Knox FFA placed fifth in the county event sponsored by the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District and held at the Jerry Mickley Farm near Howard.

In the urban soil evaluation event, members determine soil slope, landform, flooding hazard, stability, texture at three different levels, structure in the subsoil, drainage class, depth to restrictive features, and depth to bedrock. This information is used to make recommendations to use the site for houses with basements; sewage treatment systems; driveways and roads; and lawns, gardens, and landscaping. Teams also take a written test over soils and find soil information from the web soil survey.

The top five teams in the State Urban Soils Career Development Event represent Ohio each May at the National Contest in Oklahoma. East Knox FFA has been in the National Contest 29 times in the past 35 years (the most of any FFA in Ohio). East Knox FFA has also had a soil team place in the top 10 in the state 37 out of the past 41 years.



PICTURE (L to R) –Dylan Springer, Dustin Springer, Hayden Baker, and Jon Cisco at the National FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

EAST KNOX FFA COMPETES IN NATIONAL NURSERY/LANDSCAPE CDE

The East Knox FFA recently represented the state of Ohio and competed in the National FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event held in conjunction with the 96th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 31-November 3, 2023. Dylan Springer, Hayden Baker, Dustin Springer, and Jon Cisco placed 26th out of a field of teams from across the United States with a team rating of Silver. The top 10 teams in the nation received a Gold rating, the next 18 teams finished with a Silver ranking, and the final 12 teams received Bronze ratings. Individually, each student is rated Gold, Silver, or Bronze. Dylan and Dustin Springer each received a Silver rating and Baker and Cisco were awarded a Bronze rating. The team received a plaque for its placing and each member received medals for their individual national ranking at the awards banquet held on Thursday in the Indiana Convention Center at the National FFA Convention.

The team advanced to the National contest after placing first in the State FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event finals held at Delaware Area Career Center on March 29. In the State event competitors had to program an irrigation control panel, repair an irrigation line and install a sprinkler head, calculate a landscape maintenance estimate, lay sod, operate zero-turn mowers, plant and stake a tree, and operate commercial mid-size walk behind mowers. Individually, Dylan Springer placed first, Baker finished second, Dustin Springer was third, and Cisco placed sixth out of 273 competitors. The first and second place students in each of the hands-on event finals were also recognized with East Knox contestant Dustin Springer placing first in both the zero-turn mower and the commercial walk-behind mower with a perfect score of 100 out of 100 on each.

The National Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event is an activity designed to demonstrate students' skills in the area of Nursery and Landscape Management. In the event the students completed hands-on activities of tree planting, irrigation zone installation and repair, plant layout, and installing and programming a basic irrigation program controller. Students also took a general information test; completed estimation problems; did a verbal customer relation situation; identified various trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, groundcovers, weeds, and physiological problems of plants; and completed a propagating activity. The National Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event is sponsored by STIHL Incorporated, Haviland, and Kubota Tractor Corporation.

This is the eighth time that an East Knox FFA Nursery/Landscape team has represented Ohio at the National event.

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 945,988 student members as part of 9,163 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

EAST KNOX FFA MEMBERS ATTEND NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Eight members of the East Knox FFA recently attended the 96th annual National FFA Convention held November 1-4, 2023 at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis Convention Center, and Gainbridge Fieldhouse in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana where they attended sessions, received awards, listened to motivational speakers, attended workshops, and took tours.

The opening session was highlighted by the National FFA Officers Mackenna Clifton and Ryan Williamson, who chaired the session. The keynote speaker was Juan Bendaña who is a renowned speaker, author, and DJ, who lights up high school and university campuses worldwide, along with international conferences. He addresses over 50,000 students, educators, and parents annually across Canada and the United States. As the Founder of The 100 Day Playbook, he guides students to forge better habits, enhance productivity, and optimize their lives.

The National FFA Officers each gave their retiring addresses at various sessions. The six new 2023-2024 National Officers were announced at the final session on Saturday, November 4 with Amara Jackson from Michigan elected as National President and Morgan Anderson from Amanda Clearcreek FFA in Ohio elected as Eastern Region Vice President.

In addition to attending convention sessions and the trade show, the members attended the Cinches World's Toughest Rodeo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and a hypnotist show at the Indiana Convention Center.

The East Knox FFA state winning Nursery/Landscape team competed Wednesday at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and attended their awards ceremony on Thursday at the Indiana Convention Center where they learned that they placed 26th in the Nation.

The National FFA Convention had over 69,000 FFA members, parents, and guests in attendance marking the tenth time of breaking the 60,000 attendance mark. The National FFA Convention provides FFA members the opportunity to reach the goals of the National FFA Mission Statement which is to provide premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.



Picture – East Knox FFA members at the National FFA Convention outside of Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (L to R) **Dylan Springer, Quentin White, Dustin Springer, Jon Cisco, Hayden Baker, Braylon Evans, Blake Elliott, and Aiden Kapper.**

Do it for James Foundation Assembly Pictures



Purple Pride

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

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

East Knox Local School District

23201 Coshocton Road
Howard OH 43028
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

CAR/RT
HOWARD POSTAL CUSTOMER
HOWARD, OH 43028

“The achievement of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.”

~~Vince Lombardi~~

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.



SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE

BREAK THE SILENCE | PREVENT THE EVENT

Four Ways to Report to the Safe School Helpline®

Call: 1-800-418-6423 ext 359

Text: TIPS to 614-426-0240

Online: [SafeSchoolHelpline.com](https://www.SafeSchoolHelpline.com)

Mobile App: Download the FREE app from the GOOGLE PLAY STORE and the APPLE APP STORE