



January 2021

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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

### From the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

There are moments when I sit down to write these articles that I am not sure where to begin an attempt to coherently discuss everything happening on our campus at a particular moment in time!

As we continue to deal with the ramifications of the pandemic, a side note is that our cases of flu are drastically reduced so far this school year. It has been quite common that we limped into Christmas break each year wondering if we would have to close school because of absentee rates approaching twenty percent. That was certainly not the case this year. In its place, of course, is Covid-19. Although our school numbers of positive cases are low, the pandemic continues to drastically change families' lives including amongst our own staff with the loss of loved ones and friends. There are unfortunately few who don't know someone affected. Nevertheless, I am confident that we will prevail as we continually adjust to new realities at home, work and out and about in general daily life.

Change continues on our campus too for very good reasons as 2021 arrives. Grades 7-12 students attended classes for the last time in the old sections of the Junior/Senior High School on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Teachers sorted through decades' worth of materials and packed for the move to modular classrooms where those students will attend for the next three semesters during our construction project. Maintenance and custodial staff worked through their holidays moving things to storage and assisting in getting classroom furnishings moved to the modular buildings. I assure you that it has been a herculean effort especially as the modular company was a month behind schedule in having those buildings ready for our use.

Due to the above delay, Grades 7-12 students are in remote learning mode until January 19<sup>th</sup> while Grades K-6 attend in-person instruction on campus each school day. Fortunately, the rest of the project moves full speed ahead without delay. We should see actual demolition begin before the end of this month. The project will be finished Summer, 2022 with students attending classes in the new section beginning September 6, 2022.

As our campus enters a transitional phase, I offered tours of the Junior/Senior High School over four days during the holidays so that folks could have the chance to walk the halls one last time and reminisce. The response was overwhelming. I cannot begin to express what a personal joy it was to meet so many of you and have the opportunity to learn much about your school experiences within those hallowed halls. It was fascinating to hear the stories and the number of times it was said, "If these walls could talk." There were a couple folks who thought it probably best that the walls could not repeat some of the orneriness of their exploits. Thanks to each of you for the time I got to spend with you. It was truly an honor!

That's the news for now. As always, thanks for your time.

Sincerely,  
Steve Larcomb, Superintendent

### Elementary (K-6 grades)

23081 Coshocton Road  
Howard OH 43028

Phone: 740-599-7000

Mr. Cody Reese, Principal  
Ms. Corby Frere, Director of Student  
Services/Asst. Principal, x1008  
Mrs. Donna Buckingham, Secretary,  
x3002



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

23227 Coshocton Road  
Howard OH 43028

Phone: 740-599-7000

Mr. Alan Keese, Principal  
Mr. Aaron White, Asst. Principal/A.D.  
Mrs. Fawnda Stahl, Secretary, x2002  
Mrs. Chelsea Mazzari, Attendance/Athletic  
Secretary, x2003  
Ms. Stephanie Whitesel, Guidance  
Counselor, x2008  
Mrs. Alicia Simmons, Guidance Secretary,  
x2004



### East Knox Board Office

23201 Coshocton Road  
Howard, Ohio 43028

Mr. Steve Larcomb, Superintendent  
Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, CPA, Treasurer  
Mrs. Tracy Beckett, Assist. Treasurer  
Mrs. Kim Grindle, Superintendent Secretary  
740-599-7000 x1002

School District Nurse x1011

Transportation Supervisor  
Ms. Angela Wells, x1016

### East Knox Board Members

Matt Schwartz-President  
Derrick Steinmetz-Vice President  
Larry Campbell  
Kathy Frere  
Lindsay Bush



# Groundbreaking—12/17/20

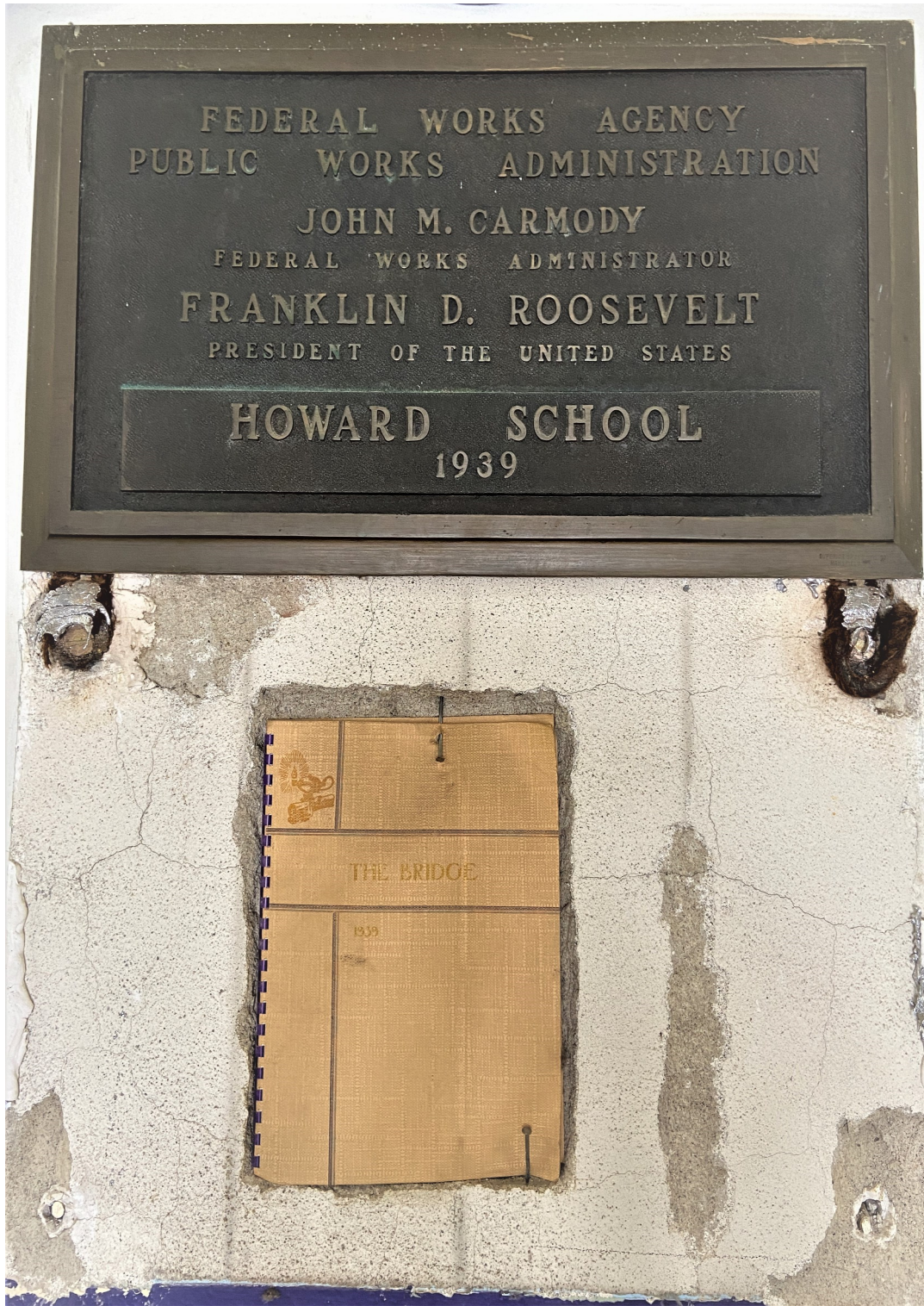
The East Knox School Board and Administration welcomed students, staff and community members to our Groundbreaking Ceremony on December 17, 2020. Although the weather delayed us for an hour, we were ultimately undeterred in formally recognizing the moment of the official start of our construction project for new academic spaces. We enjoyed listening to our Marching Band, directed by Mr. Elijah Henkel, play several tunes and lead us in the Star Spangled Banner. Superintendent Steve Larcomb recognized Band Boosters members Michelle Royer and Amanda Gephardt; Athletic Boosters Darcy and Brad Knight, Susan and Don Rogers, Dashua Alspach and Bria Warner; Parent-Teacher Organization members Shelly Annett, Lisa Mowery, Rebekah Whitney and Denise Opfer; school bond levy committee members Gary and Linda Schworm, Hub and Judy Reed as well as many other distinguished members of the East Knox community. Other attendees included members from Fanning/Howey Architecture and Elford Construction.

Special guests of honor were our students who ceremoniously and officially turned the first dirt of the new building. They are: Kindergarten **Carter Hysong**; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade **Addison VanHoose**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade **Brayden Davies**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade **Addyson Delagrange**; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade **Rhyley Barner**; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade **Addison Smith**; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade **Malena Streby**; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade **Katelynn Johnson**; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade **Aidan Holobaugh**; 9<sup>th</sup> Grade **Jesse Wolford**; 10<sup>th</sup> Grade **Ernesto Sica Sica**; 11<sup>th</sup> Grade **Autumn Brust**; and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade **Addison Crouch**.





# 1939 Hidden History—Found



East Knox Schools' Maintenance staff began preparations for demolition of the old school sections as soon as the fall semester concluded. They discovered on December 18<sup>th</sup> a hidden treasure behind the 1939 building dedication plaque as it was removed. Upon removal, they found that a small nook had been chiseled out of the plaster and a 1939 yearbook placed in that spot hidden behind the plaque for the next 81 years. "The Bridge" yearbook contains the list of each class' students and the usual pictures one would expect to find. Another treasure within the book is a letter from the Howard Rural School District Board of Education to the community explaining the benefits of passing a bond issue to build the new school and the ramifications if it failed. Superintendent J.E. Nesbitt noted on the letter that the bond issue passed by 78%. Voters reaffirmed their faith in students and their futures through the years as evidenced through approval of building additions and other improvements to the 1939 building in 1948, 1955, 1956, 1974 and 1994. We look forward to what other treasures we will find in the coming months as we prepare for the start of the actual construction of new instructional space. We will be sure to follow our predecessors' lead and leave something for future generations to find many years from now including our own discovery of the 1939 yearbook!



To the Voters and Patrons of the  
Howard Rural School District.

On August 9th the voters of the Howard Rural School District will be given an opportunity to preserve the high school and to provide a modern fireproof school building for the high school and grade children by the approval of a bond issue in the sum of \$46,750.

Your support in conjunction with the Federal Grant of \$38,250 will make it possible to erect and equip an \$85,000 building amply sufficient to care for the children of the district without any additional bond issue.

Bear in mind this is the critical time, because, if this proposal is not approved, the \$38,250 grant will go to some other school district, and in time we will be obliged to vote a bond issue entirely upon the district or lose our schools. If the bond issue is defeated, the future of the Howard School District will be entirely in the hands of the State Department of Education, and the district finally will be partitioned by the State Department of Education among other school districts regardless of the wishes of our people.

Recently the Supreme Court of Ohio ruled that territory transferred to other districts must pay on the bonded indebtedness of those districts.

A favorable decision by the voters of the school district will enable the Howard Rural Schools to continue as a permanent school set up. The state and federal government are giving us an opportunity to maintain this set up.

We draw this conclusion from the following, which is an extract from the last inspection of our schools October 8, 1937 by F. M. Shelton, High School Supervisor:

"The future of the high school should be considered. If the district is to maintain an accredited high school, a new building of sufficient size to provide accommodations for the pupils should be constructed. On the whole the teaching is good; some of it is excellent. The school is ably administered and directed.

Approved by:

E. N. Dietrich, Director of Education

G. H. Revis (signed) Director of Instruction".

For your information, in considering the life of the bonds being voted upon by Howard, Danville and Bladensburg this year, the tax-payers of Howard will pay 38% less than the tax-payers of Danville, and 16% less than the tax-payers of Bladensburg.

Our proposal will require a levy of 1.65 mills.

We urgently request your careful consideration of this matter, and, should you still be undecided as to your wish in the matter, any member of the Board of Education will be pleased to explain it to you as to costs, benefits and conveniences.

*Bond Issue Carried  
by 78 percent  
J. E. Nesbit, Supt.*

Respectfully submitted

Board of Education  
Howard Rural School District



PROGRAM OF DEDICATORY SERVICE  
OF  
HOWARD RURAL SCHOOL BUILDING

September 1, 1939

Time 8:00 P.M.

- Music, "Youth Triumphant", .....Howard Community Orchestra  
I.S. McPhail, Director
- Invocation .....Rev. Hugh Wayt, Pastor of  
Howard Church of Christ
- Music, "School Spirit", .....Howard Community Orchestra  
I.S. McPhail, Director
- What The New Building Means  
To a High School Pupil .....Ellen Henwood  
To a Teacher .....Carl Hammond  
To a Patron .....Farland Humbert  
To the Board of Education.....Bonnie Hammond, Clerk
- Introduction of  
Mr. William Althouse .....Architect  
Mr. J. C. Cody .....Resident Engineer P.W.A.  
Mr. L. M. Leonard.....General Contractor
- Remarks.....Mr. J. H. Grove  
County Superintendent of Schools
- Remarks.....Mr. Carl Jackson  
Pres. of Knox Co. Board of Education
- Address.....Mr. E. N. Deitrich  
State Director of Education of Ohio
- Presentation of Flag.....American Legion  
The Dan C. Stone, Jr. Post #136  
Speaker..Mr. M. C. Kinney, Mt. Vernon, Ohio
- Music, "Glorious Youth", .....Howard Community Orchestra  
I.S. McPhail, Director
- Benediction.....Rev. R. E. Swihart, Pastor of  
Howard Methodist Church



# 5th-8th Grade Spelling Bee Results



Ava DeCosky—5th grade winner  
JD Price—5th grade alternate  
Joshua Hitchcock—6th grade winner  
Quentin Wilson—6th grade alternate

Charlotte Mann—7th grade winner  
Jasmine Smith—7th grade runner up



Hayden Baker—8th grade winner  
Dawn Smeby—8th grade runner up





# Elementary Happenings

Elementary Bulldog Family,

This year certainly has not been short on new experiences and a change from normal. Together, as a community, we have been navigating forward in positive fashion. Time sure is passing by fast and we appreciate everything that you do and will continue to do in order to make this year as safe and successful for the students in our community.

The students at East Knox Elementary have had a busy year thus far, having already completed Third Grade Reading Testing along with Gifted Testing in the short period we have been in attendance. The 5th and 6th Grade have also conducted the Spelling Bee in which the 5th Grade winner was **Ava DeCosky** with the alternate being **JD Price**. The 6th Grade winner was **Joshua Hitchcock** and **Quentin Wilson** being the alternate. We are extremely proud of these students and all students in each grade level that participated for their hard work! Congratulations to the winners that will participate in the Knox County Spelling Bee!

As every other year, we had the annual Food for the Hungry Drive in November. Students always enjoy participating and contributing to being a positive impact on the lives of those in our community.

This year saw our first 9 weeks have 116 students earn the Perfect Attendance Award, which is no small feat. Students have been showing up and working hard, in which their efforts have made us all proud! The fall parties found the staff dressed up to the theme of "Grease", which was very fun! Our annual dress up themes never cease to bring excitement to the student body!

As you have seen, if you have been on campus lately, modulators have been installed in front of the elementary building. This has required the changing of our traffic patterns on campus and we appreciate everyone's patience and understanding at this time as student safety is always at the forefront of our decision making.

Here's to a great start to the New Year and a fantastic wrap up to the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to 2021 year!

Mr. Cody Reese  
Elementary Principal





# Jr/Sr High-Happenings

Congratulations to Freshman Taylor Severt for competing in the Girls Cross Country State Championships on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Taylor finished 86<sup>th</sup> out of 176 runners with a time of 20:46.

Also congratulations to the Varsity Football team for making it to the Regional Quarterfinals. It is the first time since 1993 that the Football team has made back-to-back playoff appearances.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spelling Bee was held in November. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade winner was **Charlotte Mann** with **Jasmine Smith** finishing second. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade winner was **Hayden Baker** with **Dawn Smeby** finishing second. Charlotte and Hayden will represent East Knox in the Districts in January at Mount Vernon Middle school.

Due to COVID, we had to alter a couple of our traditions. On Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we paid respect to our Veterans by having a reading on the history and importance of Veteran's Day during homeroom. In addition, the high school band worked to record a Christmas concert to place on YouTube. Look on our district Facebook and web pages for the link.

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season!!

Mr. Alan Keesee, Principal









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23201 Coshocton Road  
Howard OH 43028  
*EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER*

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HOWARD, OH 43028

## East Knox Local School District



Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.

Benjamin Franklin

**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.

### The Safe School Helpline

Let us know anonymously when you know of anything that threatens the safety of our school.

1-800-418-6423 ext 359  
Text: 66746, then type TIPS

Web: [www.safeschoolhelpline.com](http://www.safeschoolhelpline.com)

Safe School Helpline Mobile link to our Free Android and Apple Apps:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.safeschoolhelpline.mobile>  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/safe-school-helpline/id1110429738?mt=8>