



March 2020, Issue 73

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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,

What an incredible difference a day can make. As you know by now, Governor DeWine ordered K-12 schools closed March 12th for an extended three-week spring break. Fortunately, we worked to address such a possibility in advance of his decision. I met with our school board that night at our regular monthly meeting. I then met with the East Knox staff the next morning to outline our plans. Major concerns include how to minimize the educational disruption in our students' lives and address how to ensure students receive meals that they would have otherwise received at school.

The following guidelines will be in place during the time schools are ordered to remain closed:

- ◆ Students will begin receiving online instruction from their assigned teacher(s) starting Monday, March 23rd.
- ◆ Parents have the option of having breakfast and lunch (both meals delivered together) delivered to their homes through April 3rd. Students' meal accounts will be charged the normal price. Students eligible for free meals will not be charged in accordance with state and federal law. Meals will be delivered by East Knox bus drivers and aides.
- ◆ Spring Break will remain as scheduled from April 6th-April 10th. No meals will be delivered during spring break.
- ◆ Spring sports practices and games are postponed until at least April 7th.
- ◆ School buildings are closed to outside groups until at least April 7th.
- ◆ Normal school operations will resume at their usual times on April 13th unless school closures are ordered for a period beyond the current restriction.

As everyone adjusts to the current reality, decisions will be evaluated and adjusted as needed.

In other news, the coordination involved in putting the pieces in place to start our construction/renovation project of demolishing the old sections of the Jr/Sr High School and renovating the 1994 addition has been a bit breathtaking, but I assure you it is all good stuff.

The selection committee conducted multiple interviews and made a number of recommendations to the School Board to ensure we have the right companies in place to ensure the building project is accomplished by the best at a responsible price for our taxpayers. The Board hired Fanning/Howey Architects at the February 13th meeting. Fanning/Howey was the District's architect choice back in the 2007 timeframe when what is now the Elementary was designed and built. The selection process was rigorous and two firms really stood out including Fanning/Howey. At the end of the day, it was clear that the Elementary building is a point of pride and that Fanning/Howey is clearly vested in the success of the building project.

Continued on next page.....

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 Keesee, Principal
Mr. Aaron White, Asst. Principal/A.D.
Miss Aspen Snow, Secretary, x2002
Mrs. Fawnda Stahl, 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

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Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, CPA, Treasurer
Mrs. Tracy Beckett, Assist. Treasurer
Mrs. Kim Grindle, Board 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



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The Board also voted to approve a contract for modular classrooms with Aries Building Systems at the February meeting. Aries will begin site preparation this summer and installation of classroom spaces over the course of the fall. The plan is to move from the old sections of the Jr/Sr High slated for demolition over Christmas break with students and staff beginning classes in the modular on January 2, 2020. This will create restricted parking and a bit of a mess for parents picking up and dropping off Elementary students between this summer and Summer, 2022. We ask for patience during this time keeping in mind that our students, especially our current Elementary students, will benefit from new up-to-date educational spaces for the remainder of their East Knox careers.

Another critical part of this project was the decision to employ a construction manager at risk (CM-R) rather than a design-bid-build process. The rationale is that a CM-R will assess the project and assign a guaranteed maximum price that they will charge for the project thereby giving some risk management if prices should skyrocket between now and then or some other unforeseen circumstances causing delays (Corona virus comes to mind at the moment). I would think it safe to assume that the company will include such factors into their maximum guaranteed price. However, East Knox retains the right to refuse the guaranteed maximum price when we get to that point and use a design-bid-build process. It would certainly be more cumbersome, but we will do whatever it takes in the best interests of our students, staff and this community. After another round of interviews, the Board voted to contract with Elford, Inc. at the February meeting to fill that role (February was obviously a busy and critical month)!

The March Board meeting proved just about as busy with approvals to negotiate contracts with firms for commissioning agent, surveying, phase 1 environmental, geotechnical, hazardous material design and materials testing and inspection services. As I stated at the beginning of what is becoming a novella, all of this could be overwhelming if it were not for the four-page outline I put together last November to keep track of it all.

Another two March Board meeting items were closer to why we are really here and that is the education of our students. The Board held a required hearing when considering the school calendar. There are no changes to the previously approved 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 calendars. The hearing was for the 2022-2023 calendar. Can you believe that? We try to plan out as far as we dare which brings us to opening school after Labor Day, 2022 for that school year in order to ensure the new building and renovations to the 1994 addition are complete and ready for occupancy. I would personally like to see school always start after Labor Day. Unfortunately, this may only be a temporary blip on the radar considering the instructional days we routinely need to ensure students are ready each spring for mandated state testing. The other item of note was the pre-approval of students graduating this year on Sunday, May 17th. We will hold graduation again this year at the R.R. Hodges Chapel at Mount Vernon Nazarene University at 2:00. Features of this venue include plenty of parking, room indoors to spread out and air conditioning! I look forward to when we will hold graduation in our own air conditioned gym in May, 2023. That sounds so far away, but the reality is that it will be here before we know it.

That's the news for now.

Steve Larcomb

Superintendent



Press Release

March 11, 2020

East Knox Local School District
Howard, Ohio

East Knox Local School District recently completed the final bond sale for its facilities project that was approved by community voters on November 5, 2019. The electors of the school district approved issuance of bonds in the amount of \$19,000,000 for the construction of a new junior/senior high school and improvements to existing facilities.

The school district conducted a series of bond sales by splitting the \$19,000,000 issue to take advantage of lower interest rates as a result. On February 18th, the school district sold its first series of bonds in the amount of \$9,500,000. The issue included maturities spread over 37-years with a true interest cost of 2.67%. The school district sold the second series of bonds on March 10th to pay off a \$9,500,000 short-term note that was issued in December 2019. This issue had maturities spread over 30-years and a true interest cost of 2.13%. These results were well below the estimated interest rate of 4.50% used for ballot planning purposes.

Interest rates in the municipal bond market have reached historical lows. Concerns over COVID-19, oil prices, trade negotiations, slowing U.S. and global economy, Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC) rate cuts, and other considerations have all had an influence on lower interest rates. As a result, the school district's debt payments, including interest, are nearly \$3.8 million less over the 37-year repayment schedule than what was estimated prior to the bond sales.

The bond sales are set to close March 19th and April 7th. The school district was assisted by the law firm of Bricker & Eckler LLP and the municipal advisory firm of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC, both of Columbus, Ohio.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2020-21 school year is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 23, 2020 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, 2020 please notify the elementary school. Registration packets will be sent to parent or guardian 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 3, 2020.

Child's name _____

Parent or guardian _____

Address _____ P.O. Box _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Child's date of birth _____ Male ___ Female ___ Phone# _____

Return this completed form to:

East Knox Elementary School 23081 Coshocton Road, OH 43028
Call if you have questions: 740.599.7000 ext. 3002



Elementary Bulldog Family,

This time every year seems to come faster each and every year! We are in the 4th nine weeks and there certainly is no time to slow down. This school year has found the students in our elementary very busy with little time to rest.

We had very exciting news when our 4th grade boys and 5th grade girls basketball teams both won Highland League that they participated in. Congratulations to these student athletes and their accomplishments! We would like to congratulate all of our students that had participated in the league and represented our school very well with their character, hard work, and dedication!

At this time, it's almost spring, we have just had our Kindergarten Graduation pictures taken for the Class of 2032.

State Testing will be taking place before Spring Break (April 6-10) this year, taking place March 24-April 3. The teachers and students have been working extremely hard to prepare for the testing and have been doing a great job in doing so!

We will have Kindergarten Screening on April 22 & 23 for all students that will be entering Kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. You can register your child for the screening by calling 740-500-7000 Ext. 3002.

The Spring Book Fair will take place May 4-May 8 and Fun Day's will be on May 12 & May 14.

The school year will close out with our Kindergarten Graduation on May 20, 2020 at 1:00pm.

We are looking forward to a great end of the school year here at East Knox Elementary! We look forward to seeing you all! Have a great spring!

Mr. Cody Reese, Elementary Principal



Jr/Sr High—Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
April 6-April 10		Spring Break	No School
April 15			Science Testing
April 16			Social Studies Testing
May 1	6p	HS Auditorium	HS Play "Million Dollar Meatballs"
May 2	6p	HS Auditorium	HS Play "Million Dollar Meatballs"
May 3	3p	HS Auditorium	HS Play "Million Dollar Meatballs"
May 7		Cleveland	Senior Class Trip
May 11			Senior Class deadline for work/obligations
May 12			Senior Class Last Day
May 15	8a	Mandatory-HS	Senior Class Graduation Practice
May 15	12:30p	HS Gymnasium	Senior Awards Assembly
May 17	2p	R.R. Hodges Chapel on MVNU Campus	Graduation
May 21			Last Day of School



8th Grader Bryce Phillips won the County Spelling Bee!!

East Knox FCCLA
NEWSLETTER

February 24, 2020

East Knox FCCLA Partners With Local Deputy To Reduce Speeding

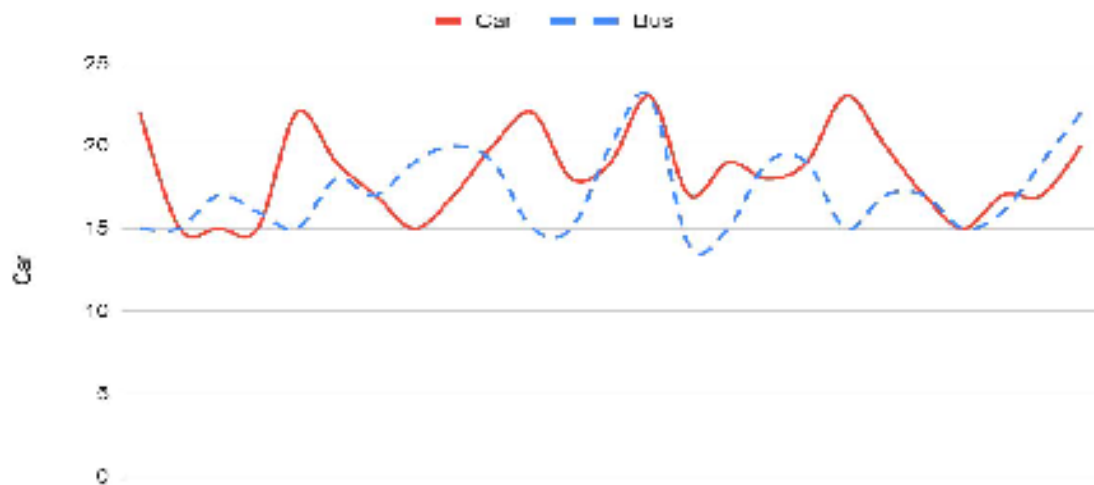


Fact: At least 60,000 people are injured and 500 or more die in parking lot accidents

The average parking lot speed is fifteen miles per hour

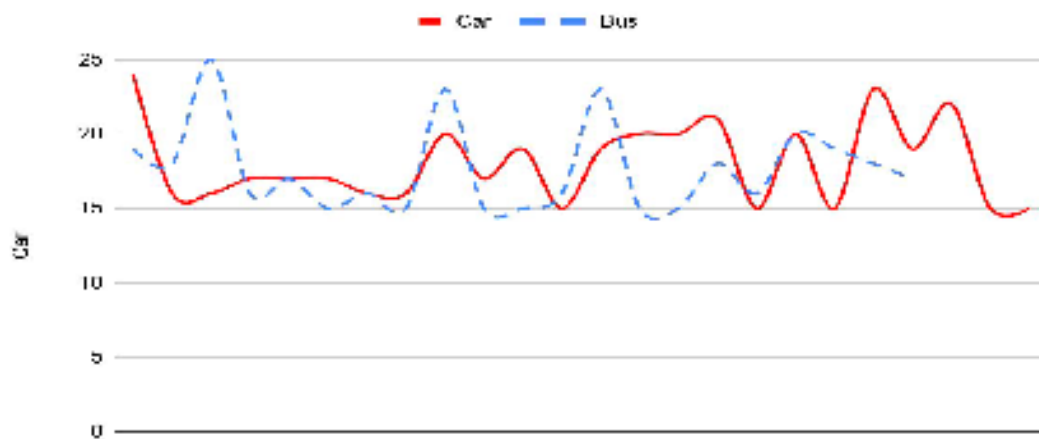
Over the past few months, the East Knox FCCLA has been working to reduce the speed of students and staff driving through the school parking lot, in the morning, before school and after school. This project had many steps, such as gathering driving statistics, analyzing information, and recording that information into graphs. The East Knox FCCLA has been trying to promote safe driving as well as educating the community on how dangerous parking lots can be. With the help from our Resource Officer, Deputy David Nally, the East Knox FCCLA unveiled how potentially dangerous our school parking lot could be. In addition to this, we have sent out the Delayed Licensure Survey for our East Knox peers to fill out. The members of the East Knox FCCLA believe that advocating for safe driving will better the community.

Car vs Bus Speed Before



The East Knox FCCLA and Deputy Nally, gathered information about how fast buses and cars travel through the school parking lot. These speeds were recorded by Deputy Nally before the 15 MPH speed limit signs were posted. The average speed of cars before the speed limit signs were posted was 19 MPH. The bus average before the signs were posted was 15 MPH. We are more focused on decreasing the speed of cars more than the buses, but hopefully both will be affected.

Car vs Bus Speed After



In addition to this, with the help of Deputy Nally once again, we gathered and recorded speed limits from the parking lot after the 15 MPH sign was posted. We saw the speeds of the cars slow down and come to more of a consistent rate altogether, which was the goal of our project. The average speed of a car after the speed limit sign was posted was 17 MPH. The average speed of buses was 17 MPH. The cars seemed to be more impacted than the buses.

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East Knox Local School District



system of education is not one thing, nor does it have a single definite object, nor is it a mere matter of schools. Education is that whole system of human training within and without the school house walls, which molds and develops men.

W. E. B. Du Bois

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

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

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