

TIGER TALES

SUMMER 2026



Dave Danhoff, Superintendent

FALL 2026 IMPORTANT DATES:

August 20
Open House
August 25
First Day of School
September 7
No School
September 25
2 Hr Delay
October 12
No School
October 30
2 Hr Delay
November 5
Conferences
November 11
Conferences
November 23-27
Thanksgiving Break
December 21-31
Winter Break

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

WHERE TIGERS GROW, LEAD, AND SUCCEED

Dear Seneca East Families,

As we wrap up another incredible year at Seneca East Local Schools, I want to take a moment to reflect on what makes this district so special. The dedication of our students, staff, families, and community continues to make Seneca East a place where Tigers grow, lead, and succeed.

This newsletter highlights so many of the great things happening across Seneca East Local Schools. From academic achievements and athletic success to student leadership, service projects, fine arts, and hands-on learning experiences, these pages tell the story of a school community committed to excellence and opportunity for all students.

This year has been filled with moments that made us proud to wear the orange and black. Whether in the classroom, on the stage, on the field, or throughout the community, our students continued to demonstrate what it means to be a Tiger. Their determination, character, and willingness to support one another are what set Seneca East apart.

I would like to extend a very special congratulations to the Class of 2026. Graduates, you have represented Seneca East with pride and left a lasting impact on our school community. From academic accomplishments and athletic success to leadership and service, you have helped continue the strong tradition

of excellence that defines Seneca East Local Schools. No matter where your future leads — college, career training, the workforce, or military service — you will always have a home here as part of the Tiger family. We are proud of you and excited to see all you will accomplish.

I also want to thank our teachers, support staff, coaches, advisors, and administrators for the countless ways they invest in students every day. Their commitment to providing meaningful opportunities and building strong relationships is what helps our students thrive.

To our families and community members, thank you for your continued partnership and support of Seneca East Local Schools. The pride this community has in its schools is evident in so many ways, and together we continue to create opportunities that prepare students for success long after graduation.

I hope everyone takes time to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends this summer. We are already looking forward to another great year ahead.

Thank you for a fantastic school year.

Sincerely,
DAVE DANHOFF
Superintendent

Seneca East Local Schools Earns Auditor of State Award

Seneca East Local Schools has earned the Ohio Auditor of State Award for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

The award is presented to governments and school districts that demonstrate excellence in financial reporting and accountability. To qualify, an entity must receive a clean audit and have no findings for recovery, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, questioned costs, or violations of state and federal regulations.

Earning this distinction reflects Seneca East's strong financial controls, accurate reporting, compliance with complex financial requirements, and commitment across the district to responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.





SENECA EAST LOCAL SCHOOLS DISTRICT AT A GLANCE



THE DISTRICT



43RD OF 607

Largest District in
Ohio by Land Area

156
Square Miles

Fewer than **5** Students
per Square Mile



8 Communities Served:

Attica Reedtown Bismark Caroline
Republic West Lodi Havana Carrothers



4 SCHOOLS, 1 BUILDING

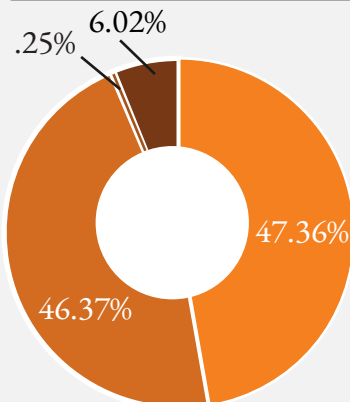
- ✓ Tiny Tigers Preschool
- ✓ Seneca East Elementary School
- ✓ Seneca East Middle School
- ✓ Seneca East High School



FINANCIAL DATA

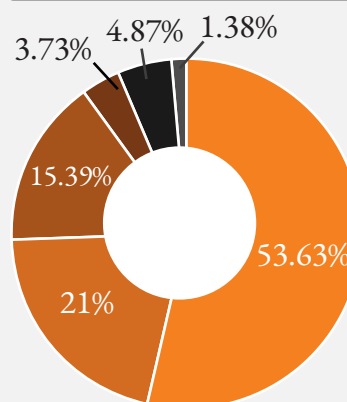
General Fund

Where Our Revenue Comes From



State - 47.36%
Local - 46.37%
Federal - .25%
Other - 6.02%

Where Our Money Goes (Operating Budget)



Salaries - 53.63%
Benefits - 21%
Purchased Services
15.39%
Supplies & Materials
3.73%
Other - 4.87%
Capital Outlay - 1.38%

Federal Funding (Restricted Use)

Food Service Operations:
\$192,916

Educational Entitlement Grants:
\$280,571

(Approximately 96% of these funds are used to pay the salaries and benefits of staff who provide federally funded educational services.)



STUDENTS

860 Total Enrollment

100% Graduation
Rate **95%** Attendance
Rate



STAFF

123 Total Staff

49% Live in District
41% Attended Seneca East Schools
18.8 years Avg Teaching Experience
77% of Teachers Have a Master's Degree



PERFORMING ARTS

Opportunities:

- Band
- Choir
- Musical
- Select Choir



CLUBS

15 Offered
110 FFA Students

FFA Earned Gold
Chapter Award

ACADEMICS

2024-2025 STATE REPORT CARD

5-STAR Overall Rating
Significantly Exceeds State Standards

Achievement ★★★★★☆

Progress ★★★★★☆

Gap Closing ★★★★★★

Graduation ★★★★★★

Early Literacy ★★★★★☆

College, Career,
Workforce, and
Military Readiness ★★★★★★

One of **47 schools** (Out of 607) to Earn 5-Stars
Top **7%** of Districts Statewide

84 Students Participating in College Credit Plus Courses

11 College Courses Offered on SE campus

4 AP Courses

9 Career Tech Education Courses

41% Graduated with Honors

28 Senior National Honor Society or National Technical
Honor Society Members

ATHLETICS

NORTHERN 10 ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

16 Varsity sports

66% HS Participation

78% MS Participation



HIGHLIGHTS

BASEBALL

District Champions 2026

BOYS BASKETBALL

District Champions 2026

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Regional Champions 2026

BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

State & Regional Qualifiers

BOYS 4 X 800 RELAY

State Champions 2025

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

State Appearance 2025

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

State Appearance 2024

FOOTBALL TEAM

Qualified for Playoffs last 10 years

BOYS AND GIRLS WRESTLING

State Qualifiers

POINTS OF PRIDE

1



All three buildings earned Purple Star Distinction and Challenge Coin from Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for strong commitment to supporting military-connected students and families.

2

Home of Stars, Stripes, and Lights Cross Country Meet and Military Appreciation event, one of Ohio's most unique combinations of athletic excellence, patriotism, and community pride.

3



The 2025–2026 school year marked an exciting milestone for Tiny Tigers Preschool as the program expanded to three classrooms and served 51 preschoolers.

4

Perennial Top-Performing Academic School.

2024-2025: ★★★★★★

2023-2024: ★★★★★☆

2022-2023: ★★★★★★



5

16 Students with Perfect 2025 State Test Scores



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK



THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PROPERTY TAXES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Ohio homeowners are feeling the impact of rising property taxes, and those concerns are real. Families, seniors, farmers, and businesses deserve meaningful conversations about affordability and tax reform. As those discussions continue, it is important to understand the connection between property taxes and the local services our communities rely on every day.

A proposed constitutional amendment being discussed in Ohio would eliminate all property taxes on real property and take effect with no identified replacement funding source. While the proposal may sound simple, its impact would be far-reaching.

Property taxes help fund many of the services people rely on every day—the teacher in the classroom, the firefighter responding to an emergency, the deputy on patrol, the library down the street, the roads and bridges we travel, and programs that support seniors and individuals with disabilities. In fact, property taxes provide nearly two-thirds of local tax revenue in Ohio communities.

The most important question isn't whether taxpayers deserve relief. The answer to that is yes. The question is what happens next.

According to statewide analyses, local property taxes generate approximately \$21 billion annually across Ohio. Eliminating

that revenue source would create an immediate funding gap, yet the proposal offers no transition plan and no replacement revenue source.

At Seneca East, we work hard to maximize every taxpayer dollar while providing students with opportunities to learn, grow, and prepare for their future. Like most Ohio school districts, local funding is a critical part of that work. Our district carefully evaluates spending, pursues grant opportunities, and plans strategically to ensure long-term financial stability.

Removing a major source of local funding without a replacement plan would force difficult decisions—not only for schools, but also for public safety agencies, libraries, county services, and local governments across Ohio.

Ohioans should continue discussing ways to improve our tax system and address the challenges many property owners face. Those conversations are important. But before eliminating a funding source that supports schools, public safety, infrastructure, and essential community services, we should ask a simple question:

What replaces it?

Any long-term solution should balance taxpayer relief with preserving the services that help our communities remain safe, strong, and prepared for the future.

Sincerely,
KYLE MCCONNELL
Treasurer

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
Class of 2026



Class of 2039!

Seneca East Elementary welcomed our future Tigers for Kindergarten Screening on May 21st and 22nd! We enjoyed meeting our incoming kindergarten students and their families and are excited to welcome them to our school community this fall.

If you were unable to attend screening or have not yet registered your child for kindergarten, there is still time! Kindergarten registration will remain open throughout the summer. Please contact the elementary office for information on how to register your child and begin their educational journey at Seneca East Elementary.



CELEBRATING OUR RETIREES

Seneca East Local Schools extends its heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to our retirees for their years of dedicated service to our students, families, and community. Throughout their careers, they have made a lasting impact by supporting student growth, fostering meaningful relationships, and helping shape the positive culture that defines Seneca East.



Melody Margraf

Role: Title 1 Reading
33 years at Seneca East



Sue Caudill

Role: High School Business/ Marketing
and Middle School Intervention
22 years at Seneca East



Andrea Saylor

Role: High School ELA
33 years at Seneca East



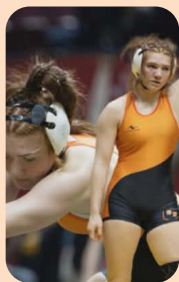
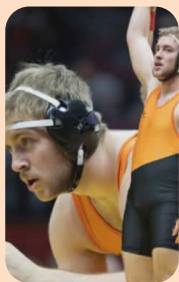
Victoria Stillberger

Role: 4th Grade Teacher
29 years at Seneca East

Not pictured: **Jay Mason** | Custodian | 31 years at Seneca East
Kourtney Bame | Bus Driver | 31 years at Seneca East

HONORING ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

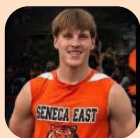
Congratulations to Alex Young and Jackson Gayheart, who earned Academic All-Ohio State Qualifier honors, and to Kiera Depinet, who was named an Academic All-Ohio State Placer.



The Seneca East baseball team added another chapter to its proud tradition this spring, capturing yet another District Championship following a successful season on the diamond.



Congratulations to Luke Mason on being named 3rd Team All-Ohio (Division VI) by the Ohio Prep Sports Media Association.



Congratulations to the Seneca East Tigers Track & Field athletes who represented our school at the OHSAA State Track & Field Championships.

The Seneca East Girls Track & Field Team claimed this year's District Championship.



The Seneca East Girls Basketball team was recognized with the Academic Team All-Ohio Award, presented by SGT Skye Stevenson of the Ohio Army National Guard. This prestigious honor reflects the team's outstanding commitment to success both athletically and academically.

With a State Final Four appearance and a perfect 4.0 team GPA, these student-athletes demonstrated what it means to represent Seneca East with pride, determination, and excellence. Their accomplishments are a testament to the hard work, discipline, and character they bring to every practice, classroom, and competition.



TIGER TALES FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

Digging Into Earth's Past

Students in Mrs. Kessler's first-grade class recently wrapped up an exciting unit on the History of the Earth through a variety of hands-on learning stations and activities. Students explored fossils, the layers of the Earth, volcanoes and geysers, different types of rocks, and dinosaurs.



A Taste of Italy

Students at Seneca East recently experienced a hands-on culinary lesson with an international twist. With the guidance of Italian exchange student Bea, students prepared a classic dish—Creamy Risotto alla Milanese—bringing authentic flavors and cultural learning into the classroom.



Tiny Tigers Graduation

Tiny Tigers Preschool celebrated a major milestone as students, families, and staff gathered for the annual graduation ceremony.



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Middle School Quiz Bowl Team Success

Our Tigers competed in an 11-team tournament at Tiffin University and represented Seneca East with determination, focus, and outstanding teamwork.

The team earned a tie for second place, narrowly missing a trophy based on overall points.



Students Take Center Stage

Seneca East students recently wowed audiences with their production of Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Chasing Records in the Gym

Mr. Phillips's gym classes recently took on a fun and challenging goal—going after the world record of stacking 31 basketballs on a hoop. The activity brought together teamwork, strategy, and plenty of creativity as students worked toward their goal.

Second period built an impressive stack of 19 basketballs, while fourth period pushed even further, reaching 23 basketballs.

Students Explore Strength and Conditioning at CrossFit Tiffin

Seneca East students recently stepped outside the classroom for a hands-on learning experience focused on fitness, training, and career exploration. Thanks to the generosity of CrossFit Tiffin and Justin Ruffing, Mr. Phillips's students had the opportunity to visit a local strength and conditioning facility and see its daily operations in action.



Seneca CEO Program

Luella Burkholder and Karlie Summit recently showcased their businesses at Trade Show 2026 through the Seneca County CEO

Program, highlighting ventures they built from the ground up.

Luella founded Lu's Coffee Co., a mobile coffee cart serving the Republic and Attica communities, while Karlie created Karlie's Kakes, specializing in homemade desserts and custom sweets.

Earlier this year, both students participated in a Shark Tank-style pitch competition with local business leaders. Luella earned top honors and received a monetary award to reinvest into her business.

Book Club Travels to Historic Malabar Farm

Stories came to life beyond the classroom for the Seneca East High School Book Club during a recent trip to Malabar Farm, the home of celebrated Ohio author Louis Bromfield.

Students toured the historic Big House, explored Bromfield's literary works and lasting legacy, enjoyed a wagon ride through the property, and shared a picnic lunch together. The day also included a hike to a small cave on the grounds, giving students the opportunity to experience the beauty and inspiration behind Bromfield's writing.



Soaring to Eagle Scout

Cain Price has reached an incredible milestone, earning the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 442.



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Seneca East App

 SenecaEastSchools

 senecaeast

 SenecaEast



AMERICA 250 COMES TO SENECA EAST: Four Days of History, Heroes, and Patriotism

Seneca East Local Schools is proud to host America 250, a once-in-a-generation celebration honoring the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and commemorating the 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001. From September 9-12, 2026, our campus will welcome visitors from across Northwest Ohio for four days of patriotism, remembrance, education, and community.

Event Highlights

Revolutionary War Exhibit

September 9-12

Explore America's founding era through authentic stories, documents, artifacts, and educational displays.

RSVP:

Matt Schock
419-618-8974

mschock@se-tigers.com

Special Invitation

Veteran & First Responder Appreciation Dinner

September 9 at 6:30 PM

Free to all veterans, active military personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMS personnel, and first responders.

Remembering Our Fallen National Memorial

September 9-12

This powerful memorial honors the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

Revolutionary War Reenactors

September 11 & 12

Experience living history as Revolutionary War reenactors bring 18th-century America to life through military encampments, period uniforms, demonstrations, and educational presentations.

STARS, STRIPES, & LIGHTS Patriot Celebration

Saturday, September 12

Held in conjunction with the Stars, Stripes, & Lights Cross Country Meet:

- ★ United States T-6 Air Force Flyover*
- ★ Patriotic Drone Show*
- ★ Fireworks Celebration*
- ★ Massive American Flag Skydiving Demonstration
- ★ Hundreds of American Flags Displayed Across Campus
- ★ Community Patriotism and Remembrance Activities