

TIGER TALES

FALL 2024



Dave Danhoff, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Dear Tiger Families,

As we kick off a new school year, I am filled with both honor and excitement to step into the role of superintendent. Having already served as principal at Seneca East Middle and High School, I know what a special community this happens to be. Watching students engage in their classes, participate in clubs and sports, and reconnect with their friends reminds me every day that there is truly no place I would rather be.

Dr. Kagy is passing the baton to me after leading Seneca East with dedication and vision for 11 remarkable years. Her leadership was instrumental in shaping our district's success, and she will be deeply missed by students, staff, and the entire community. I am committed to carrying forward her legacy of excellence with great pride.

We kicked off the year by hosting the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, which brought history to life for our students and offered our community a chance to reflect on those who served. The wall's presence added even more significance to our annual Stars, Stripes & Lights race, which was punctuated by a memorable evening of fun and fireworks.

As superintendent, I know I am part of something much larger than myself. My role is not just to lead but to inspire every staff member to bring their best so we can keep this positive momentum going. As a team, we will build on our strong foundation and open doors to even more opportunities for our students to succeed.

I look forward to a very successful and productive year as we move forward.

Sincerely,
Dave Danhoff
Superintendent

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MEET AND GREET KICKS OFF THE YEAR

We are so excited to share that our first official Meet and Greet was a great success! Parents and their students had the opportunity to meet with each of their classroom teachers, check out the learning environment, and engage in conversation with the classroom teachers. We are blessed to have a great community of teachers and parents that fosters a culture of growth and excellence through their ongoing dedication to our students' success.



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK



Dear Seneca East Families,

Now in my second year as district treasurer for Seneca East Schools, I've come to realize how truly special our school community is. It's been an honor working alongside the board, administration, and staff to maintain the district's financial health. You are the reason we do what we do, and my commitment is to

manage our resources wisely, ensuring every dollar supports student success.

As we close out the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, we've also exhausted our Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. These COVID-19 relief funds, provided through the American Rescue Plan, have been crucial in addressing learning loss, supporting mental health services, and ensuring a safe learning environment. ESSER also helped fund programs and initiatives that led Seneca East to achieve some of the highest ratings by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Now, as these expenses shift back to our general fund, we'll be carefully planning and prioritizing our budget to maintain these programs while ensuring financial stability.

Even as we are tightening our belts, we are excited to welcome the expansion of our agricultural science and career tech programs. Thanks to the time and effort put in by Dr. Kagy, Mr. Pozderac, and Mr. McClain, Seneca East was awarded several grants, including the \$247,000 Ohio Career and Technical Equipment Grant. Due to the funding from these grants, we can expand courses, purchase upgraded, safer equipment, and construct a new ag science lab (barn) for hands-on learning and live demonstrations.

I would also like to notify the Seneca East community that the Seneca East Board of Education is placing the renewal of the 1% income tax levy, which expires at the end of 2025, on the ballot for the Nov. 5, 2024 general election. The proposed levy is a five-year renewal of a tax originally passed in November 2000, for the purpose of current expenses, including staff, utilities, textbooks, and supplies. If you have any questions about the ballot issue or district finances, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Kyle McConnell
Treasurer

TINY TIGERS ARE BACK!

The third year of Tiny Tigers Preschool is off and running, and it has been a blast so far! Two classrooms of 18 students each have been busy developing an understanding of daily routines, making new friends, reading, coloring, creating, and more.

Our preschool students look forward to visits from the Seneca East Public Library and Ms. Linda from the Seneca County Park District, among others. Information regarding sign-ups for next year's Tiny Tigers class will be included in the winter newsletter and posted on social media as we enter the new calendar year.

Tiny Tigers
PRESCHOOL



TITLE VI-B FUNDS

Title VI-B funds are Federal allocations for the exclusive benefit of children with disabilities. Input as to how best to utilize these funds for Seneca East Local Schools is welcome. For more information or to share ideas, please call 419-426-3344.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS "ON TOUR"



SE Kindergarten students dream big as they visit the high school stadium during their tour of the campus.



The young Tigers strike a pose in the hallway.

HAPPY CAMPERS AND THE COOL BEAN

Our 5th graders jumped right into the school year by putting their investigative skills to the test! They worked together to solve clues in a BreakoutEDU activity, all leading to the big reveal – a locked box containing a camping guidebook and some delicious s'mores chocolate. This team-building exercise was the perfect way to kick off their year of working with the library media center.

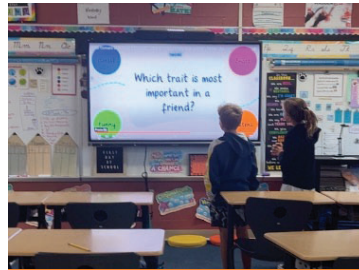


SPECIAL EDUCATION IDENTIFICATION

In accordance with federal law, Seneca East Local Schools assumes responsibility for the location, identification, and evaluation of all children (birth through age 21) who reside within the Seneca East Local School District and who require special education and related services. The Special Education Department of Seneca East Local Schools coordinates this child identification process. If you know of or suspect that a child may have a disability, you may contact the Seneca East Local Schools Special Education Department at 419-426-3344 or contact the building principal to discuss these concerns and determine a course of action.

THE VERY "FOUR" TUNATE FOURTH WEEK OF FOURTH GRADE!

In honor of the fourth week of school, Seneca East's fourth-graders celebrated with a series of activities centered around the number FOUR. Each day of the week featured a different game or challenge tied to the theme, including:



Four Corners



Four Square



Four Score



Connect Four



Wheel of Fortune

TRAVELING VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL COMES TO SENECA EAST

After a two-year wait, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall came to town this September, thanks to the Seneca East cross country program, local businesses, our local veterans, and families. This traveling replica of the original wall has toured the country for years, giving those unable to visit Washington, D.C., a chance to see and reflect on the names of the fallen. The traveling wall is three-fifths the size of the Vietnam Memorial, and it traveled to us from its home base in Florida! It stood six feet tall at its highest point and covered the length of our entire football field from end zone to end zone.

The wall served as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by 58,311 Americans during the Vietnam War. Throughout the week, students, community members, and visitors from all over the state paid their respects to the memorial. Seneca East students also spent time at the wall with their classes to connect with history and honor those who have served and paid the ultimate price.



SPECIAL “PINNII

Seneca East was honored to host a special commemorative pinning ceremony during the visit of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. The ceremony recognized veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces between 1955 and 1975 (Vietnam Era), whether in combat or non combat roles, from any branch of the military.

Aside from honoring the veterans, the ceremony featured a color guard, special musical performances, a bagpiper, and a tribute to the 27 Seneca County Vietnam veterans who were killed in action (KIA). Taps was played, a rifle salute was conducted, and bells tolled as Seneca East students placed flags in honor of each fallen soldier from Seneca County in a moving remembrance. The ceremony was a solemn tribute to those who have served and sacrificed.

We are deeply honored to have presented this sacred memorial and commemorative pinning ceremony to our community. To all veterans reading this, we offer the message inscribed on the back of each pin: “A grateful nation (and our community) thanks and honors you for your service.”



STARS, STRIPES & LIGHTS MEET BRINGS THOUSANDS TO SENECA EAST

Seneca East hosted its fourth annual Stars, Stripes, & Lights cross country meet this fall. The event brought together 75 schools, 250 teams, 2,300 runners, and more than 8,000 spectators, filling the school grounds from late afternoon until the midnight hour.

This year's event was held in conjunction with hosting the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, which was located on the football field. As part of the event, a special ceremony was held to honor and recognize veterans and first responders. A skydiver landed carrying a giant American flag, while the Seneca East High School choir, directed by Mrs. Kim Spencer, performed the national anthem and a moving rendition of “More Than a Name

NG" CEREMONY RECOGNIZED VETERANS

NAMES OF THOSE WHO RECEIVED PINS:

Jerry Adams Army	Jerry Dick Army National Guard	Dave Hawblitz Army	Harold Bud Kinn Army	Robert Mortimer Navy	Steve Smith Army
James Amlin Air Force	Larry Dunson Air Force	Marvin Hohman Army	Don Kleinfelter International Guard	Duane Myers Navy (Family of)	Dennis Snyder Air Force
Terry Baer Marines (Friend of)	John Earl Army	Dave Holmer Army National Guard	Dale Laibe Navy	Frank Niedermier Army	Gary Solomon Army
Keith Balliet Army	Thomas Eastlick Army	Herman Holmer National Guard	Robert Langjahr Army (Family of)	Dean Phillips Army (Family of)	Albert Spoerr Army (Family of)
Butch Bish Army	Stephen Eidt Army	Richard Hosang Army (Family of)	Don Larimer Marines	Gerald Ruffing Air Force National Guard (Family of)	Ben Stockmaster Navy
Terry Bogner Army	Clive Feasel Army	Frederick James Army	Steve Lepard Army	Dennis Ryan Army	Richard Stockmaster Army
Alford Brickner Army	Robert Feasel Air Force & Army	Larry Jacobs Marines	Kenneth Lucius Army	Edward Schumacher Army	Donald Thallman Army National Guard
Tom Burwell Army	Chris Fike Army	Kenneth Jones Air Force	Ronnie Martin Army	Francis Sherman Army	Wes Thompson Marines
Mike Conway Army	David Fretz Army	Paul Jones Army	Scott Melroy Army	Tim Shipley Army	Lee Vanderveen Army
Robert Cook Navy	Laz Garcia Jr. Army	Ed Kanney Army	Bert Messersmith Army	Ken Simmons Marines	Kenneth Weaver Navy
Stan Courtad Army	Richard Gerber Army	Curt Karr Navy	Leon Miller Army	Bill Smith Army	Dale Williams Army (Family of)
Robert Dible Army	Randall Gittinger Army	Allan King Army	James Missler Air Force National Guard	Doug Smith Navy	Herb Wise Air Force

on the Wall." The ceremony concluded with Ohio State Highway Patrol Sergeant John McGlasha playing "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes, followed by a moment of silence from the thousands in attendance.

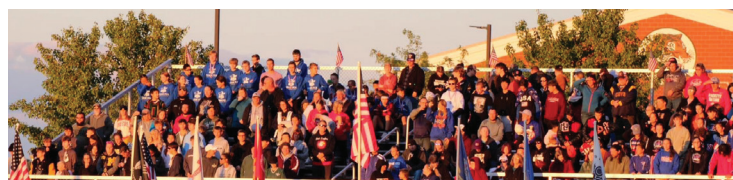
What started as a small idea has grown into one of the most successful cross country meets in the state—and arguably the most unique combination of patriotism, community pride, and national pride in a school athletic event. This success is thanks to the many individuals, families, groups, businesses, community members, and alumni. What we have accomplished here at Seneca East is truly remarkable.

Organizing an event of this magnitude requires tremendous effort, and the Seneca East Cross Country Program is deeply grateful for everyone's cooperation and contributions. This special event has become more than just a cross country meet; it's a true community celebration, showcasing small-town people doing big-time things. As the great coach Woody Hayes once said, "You win with people," and here at Seneca East, we have the people.

Thank you to everyone involved.



Commemorative Video



The event received media coverage, with WTOL 11 News featuring it on three separate occasions. Links to the news coverage can be accessed via the QR codes below.



Sept. 7, 11:00 News



Sept. 18, 4:00 News



Sept. 18, 5:30 News

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



OHIO STATE TESTING DATES 2024-2025

Fall/Winter Testing

Oct. 22-29, 2024	Grade 3 English Language Arts
Dec. 2-20, 2024	High school end-of-course exams

Spring Testing

March 24-April 25, 2025	Grades 3-5 English Language Arts (specific dates to be determined by teachers)
March 31-May 9, 2025	Grades 3-5 math and science (specific dates to be determined by teachers)
April 3-4, 2025	High school English Language Arts
April 9-10, 2025	Middle school English Language Arts
April 29-30, 2025	Middle and high school math
May 6-7, 2025	Middle and high school science and social studies

HALL OF FAME FORM

Seneca East inducted its second Hall of Fame class last school year. It's once again time to start nominating deserving Seneca East alumni, athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators, staff, and community members for this prestigious award. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize outstanding achievements and meritorious service to the district. Scan the QR Code to learn more and make your nomination.

*Please note: Individuals who were part of the original Attica and Republic High Schools before the district merging in 1970 are eligible.



HERE'S THE DIRT ON SOIL DIAGNOSTICS

Students in grades 8-12 had the opportunity to immerse themselves in all things agriculture at the Farm Science Review held in London, Ohio. Students engaged in soil diagnostics as well as agricultural practices as they prepare for the future of agriculture. This trip was not only a great experience for our students but also an opportunity to foster a better understanding of the vital role agriculture plays in our world.

NEW TO THE TEAM!



Rosa
Blasius
Cafeteria Team



Lois
Hicks
Cafeteria Team



Hannah
Fraley
Custodial Staff



Holly
Meade
Custodial Staff



Jenn
Stookey
Bus Driver



Kiley
Voorhees
Bus Driver



Stephanie
Dawson
Substitute
Teacher



SENECA EAST HOSTS “THE” TIGER CLASSIC

Teams from across the state came “running” to Seneca East on Aug. 24 as the school hosted the 12th annual running of “THE” Tiger Classic. This event, which launched in 2013 with 18 schools, has grown into one of Ohio’s top cross country meets. This year, more than 65 schools (1,800 runners) competed in the Classic as over 5,000 spectators cheered them on.

The continued success of an event this size is due to the support of numerous volunteers — individuals, community groups, and businesses — and our community ALWAYS comes through! To all of you who donated your talents, expertise, time, and financial resources, the Seneca East cross country coaching staff extends a heartfelt THANK YOU. You help make “THE” Tiger Classic THE place to be for cross country running every August. GO TIGERS!



Each year, the Ohio Department of Education releases its School Report Cards, offering a snapshot of how districts are performing and preparing students for the future. The 2023-24 grades have been released, and Seneca East Local School District earned an overall rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars, EXCEEDING state standards! Great job to the staff and students on a job well done.

We are especially proud of our five-star ratings in the “Gap Closing” and “Graduation” categories. These marks reflect our focused efforts to provide a well-rounded, equitable education to all students and ensure they receive the resources needed to graduate on time. Scoring an “Achievement” rating of four-stars also confirms that Seneca East is helping students meet important academic benchmarks along the way and preparing them for what comes next.

In addition to our state report card results, we are thrilled to report a 7% increase in our “College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness” component. Although this score is not factored into the state report card, it is a crucial indicator of how well we prepare students for life beyond high school. Whether our students choose higher education, enter the workforce, or serve in the military, this score shows that Seneca East students are leaving the district with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary for success - regardless of the path they choose.

We are proud of the hard work of our staff and students!

HONORING HEROES AT GAME TIME

At the SE football game on September 13, the Tiger football team and fans came together to honor those who have served and sacrificed for our country. SE students proudly wore red, white, and blue to show their support and the football team expressed their gratitude to the veterans in attendance before the game.

We are lucky to have so many opportunities like this, where we can come together to recognize and thank those who have paved the way for the freedoms we enjoy every day. It was a meaningful evening for all involved.





Seneca East Local Schools

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Seneca East App

 SenecaEastSchools

 senecaeast

 SenecaEast

Seneca East Local Schools will be on the November 5 ballot for an income tax renewal levy

If renewed, this income tax levy would continue to generate an estimated \$1,524,026 annually for district operations

This levy represents approximately 12% of the district's yearly operating budget

This is a 5 year income tax renewal

This income tax levy has been renewed by voters every five years since 2000

The tax rate is set at 1% of income

Funding from the levy would help maintain the district's day-to-day operations, including staff, utilities, textbooks, and supplies