Shawnee Local Schools

3255 Zurmehly Road
Lima, Ohio 45806

Don Diglia
Superintendent

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March 16, 2026

Dear Community Members,

You may have noticed buses parked in front of the middle school over the weekend. As always, the safety of our students, staff and community is our top priority. On Friday, March 13th, high winds caused the 100-year-old light tower to shift. Once it was discovered, the entrance and parking lot in that area were immediately closed as a precaution.

I would like to thank our staff for quickly responding and creating a safe dismissal plan. I also appreciate our students, parents and community members for their flexibility and cooperation. Because everyone responded positively, we were able to dismiss students safely and effectively.

Due to continued higher wind speeds, middle school pick-up and drop-off will be adjusted as follows:

> **Pick-up Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17** will follow the same pattern as Friday, March 13th. All student **pick-ups** will need to exit through the A building (5th-6th doors) and B (MS Office) at dismissal. Students and staff are **NOT** able to exit the C (Superintendent entrance) building doors.
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> Bus **riders** will be dismissed through the 7th and 8th grade cafeteria doors. Staff will assist them in crossing to the high school to board the bus.
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> **Drop-off Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18** will follow the same pattern as this morning. All middle school drop-off traffic must enter from Zurmehly Rd.
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> Students walking from the high school should use the crosswalk and then take the sidewalk between the middle school and the fenced playground to the back of the building. A staff member will meet students at the S2 door behind the middle school to let them in.
>
> Only buses behind the middle school; no student drop-off or parking.

This morning, we met with local contractors to determine the next steps. We recognize the historical significance of the light tower and the role it has played as a recognizable symbol in our community for 100 years. The light tower is tentatively scheduled for careful removal on

Wednesday. While this will be a meaningful change for our district, it is our intention to preserve and restore the structure so it can continue to be part of our school's story in the future.

Thank you for your continued patience, support, and commitment to keeping our students safe. Our community's cooperation and pride in our schools continue to make Shawnee a special place. We will share updates as plans for the light tower move forward.

Sincerely,

Don Diglia,
Superintendent