EAST HOLMES LOCAL SCHOOLS

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026







Willy Wonka

From November 13 to 16, the Hiland Theater Department invited our community into a world of "pure imagination" with this fall's musical production of *Willy Wonka.*

This production showcased the hard work of our student cast and crew across five unforgettable performances.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the show. Your encouragement helped make *Willy Wonka* a sweet success!



A special thank you to the directing team, who made every moment on stage feel magical.

Ms. Sarah Sommers and **Mrs. Christa Wolf,** *Co-Directors*

Ms. Rogan Miller and **Mrs. Mallory Rearick,** *Co-Costumers/Make-Up*

Mr. Mark Stutzman, *Lights, Sound & Special Effects*

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

12 Early Dismissal (2 Hours)

16 District In-Service
(No School for Students - President's Day)

20 End of 2nd Trimester (Elementary K-8)

MARCH

2 Report Cards Sent Home (Elementary)

13 End of 3rd Nine Weeks (Hiland 7-12)

20 Report Cards Sent Home (Hiland)

23-27 Spring Break (No School)

MISSION *Inspiring excellence to prepare students in becoming productive and responsible citizens through a partnership of exceptional leadership, dedicated staff, and a supportive community.*

Security Update

Following the incident at Berlin Elementary earlier this fall, we have been conducting a district-wide safety and security assessment over the past several months, with the assistance of security consultant David Morgan and the Holmes County Sheriff's Office.

The assessment confirms that East Holmes Local Schools has a solid foundation for safety. We have dedicated staff, strong building-level routines, and a long-standing partnership with the Holmes County Sheriff's Office, supported by our dedicated School Resource Officer. At the same time, this incident highlighted the need for a comprehensive review of our safety and security measures. Facilities, daily practices, crisis management procedures, and camera and communication systems are just a few of the areas we are examining as part of this assessment. This will help the district identify opportunities for improvement while building on what we already do well and preserving the welcoming, community-focused nature of our schools.

District administrators have begun reviewing the recommendations alongside other district considerations in order to thoughtfully evaluate and prioritize next steps, in collaboration with the Board of Education and our public safety partners.

Anonymous Reporting System

East Holmes Local School District utilizes the "Say Something" Anonymous Reporting System (ARS) in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise, a national leader in school safety programs.

This initiative is part of East Holmes' ongoing commitment to creating a safer, more supportive environment for all students, educators, and community members.

The Say Something ARS program is designed to educate students and staff on how to identify warning signs and threats, whether online or in person, and respond effectively. Through this program, students learn to recognize at-risk behaviors in their peers, take them seriously, and act promptly. They can choose to talk to a trusted adult or report concerns anonymously via the Say Something ARS mobile app, website, or a 24/7/365 crisis hotline.



STEM

Mrs. Pringle has been working with our elementary schools to incorporate STEM programming throughout the school year. She has engaged students in various types of lessons, including coding, bridge building, and environmental studies.

Integrating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) into our elementary school curriculum is crucial for preparing students for the future and addressing the needs outlined in our district's science DLT goal.

Introducing these concepts early builds critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and creativity. Unlike rote memorization, STEM education encourages students to ask questions, experiment, and collaborate on real-world challenges. This hands-on approach makes learning engaging, sparking a natural curiosity that can lead to a lifelong passion for discovery and building a strong foundation for future academic and career success.





HILAND ATHLETICS

Fall Sports

Congratulations

to the following fall sport athletes who received All-Ohio Honors.

Boys Soccer:
Christian Mullet (Junior)

Girls Soccer:
Chanelle Kellogg (Senior)

Boys Golf 1st Team:
Jack Mast (Senior)

Boys Golf 2nd Team:
Andrew Beun (Junior)

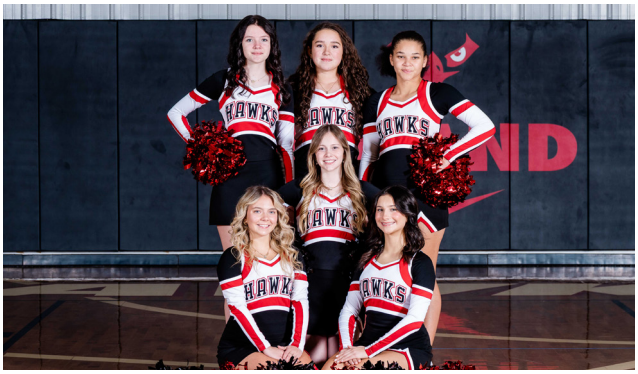


The Girls Soccer Team made it to the Division VI Regional Final for the first time in program history!

Winter Sports



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL



VARSITY CHEER SQUAD



GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Good luck to all our winter sports teams!

Go Hawks!

Superintendent's Message



As we begin a new year, East Holmes Local Schools remains filled with activity, energy, and excitement. The past several months have highlighted the strength of our district, and the months ahead promise continued opportunities for learning and growth. It is truly a privilege to be part of this community.

This fall and early winter have brought many moments worth celebrating, from the outstanding production of Willy Wonka at Hiland to hands-on STEM learning, student leadership opportunities, and athletics. Across the district, our students have demonstrated remarkable talent, determination, and commitment.

Safety continues to be our highest priority. We partnered with the Holmes County Sheriff's Office and security consultant David Morgan to conduct a comprehensive, districtwide safety and security assessment. This work has confirmed many strong practices already in place while also identifying opportunities to further strengthen our systems. District leaders are carefully reviewing the recommendations and will continue working closely with the Board of Education and our public safety partners to guide next steps, while maintaining the welcoming, community-centered nature of our schools.

I want to thank our staff, students, families, and East Holmes community for your continued trust, partnership, and support. Together, we remain focused on what matters most: inspiring, preparing, and challenging every student for success.

Sincerely,

Erik Beun
Superintendent
East Holmes Local Schools

Share-A-Christmas

This year, as a part of our Share-A-Christmas initiative, students and families across the district helped raise money and contributed to a canned food drive for families in need over winter break.

Our outstanding students and staff also demonstrated tremendous compassion by helping pack boxes for the program, which included non-perishable and perishable food items, hygiene and toiletry products, several toys, and vouchers for clothing. This initiative is a meaningful experience that allows students to put leadership into action and give back to the community during the holiday season.

This year, we are thrilled to have collected $73,000 and 12,000 pounds of canned food!



Board of Education

The Board is comprised of five elected citizens and meets in regular session on the third Friday of each month unless otherwise noted. Meetings are held at the East Holmes Administration Office and begin at 7:30 am. The public is invited to attend.

We would like to express our appreciation to our Board of Education members for all they do. Thank you to our returning Board members, Steve Miller, Bryan Coblentz, Bryce Troyer, Julia Ann Klink, and our newest Board member, Wendyl Swartzentruber. We'd also like to thank Laurel Miller for her years of service to the district and community.