Fall 2024

Tele Graham

Graham Local Schools Newsletter

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Home of the Falcons

Engaged with our community, Graham Local Schools fosters the safety and wellness of our students, staff and families while focused on developing responsible individuals and lifelong learners to better our world.

"Graham Local Schools...
SUCCESS TODAY, PREPARED FOR TOMORROW."

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

It's hard to believe that fall is among us. The late summer months were tough, the absence of rain, the long hot days that seemed to never end. However, not all hope was lost! The schools are buzzing again with our kids, teachers and staff. Stands are filling up to watch our fall athletes and that Dancin' Band From Falcon Land and as I write this, rain is hitting my window! As always, I am proud to share some significant updates about our district's progress, our dedicated staff, and the challenges we face moving forward.

First and foremost, I want to celebrate our recent state report card. Our schools have demonstrated remarkable achievement, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our students, educators, and staff. And all groups should be celebrated and congratulated! This accomplishment showcases not only the academic excellence we strive for but also the collaborative spirit that should define our community.

Our dedicated staff members are the backbone of our success. Their commitment to fostering a nurturing and rigorous learning environment has made a profound impact on our students. Despite facing unprecedented challenges over the past few years, their resilience and innovation have shone through. It is their passion that drives our students to excel and grow. Thank you all for believing in our strategic plan, bringing it to life and continuing to allow student success to be your drive and passion.

However, this success comes at a cost. In light of recent financial constraints and continuous failed attempts to increase revenue, we made the difficult decision to implement approximately $1 million in budget cuts, which has resulted in the loss of 14 positions, over the past two years. Both will greatly impact our students and the trajectory of our district. These cuts were not made lightly. We understand that each position represents a valued member of our educational community and contributes to our students' success. As a board, we knew that it is vital that we continue to explore new avenues for revenue to ensure that our schools remain strong and our students receive the quality education they deserve.

Additionally, we face challenges with our aging bus and van fleet. Many of our buses are becoming unreliable and require significant maintenance, which is both costly and disruptive. Reliable transportation is crucial for our students' safety and accessibility, and we recognize the need for a plan to update our fleet. As we seek to address this issue, securing additional funding will be essential to ensure that our students can travel to and from school safely and efficiently.

In November when you head to the polls, you will be asked to vote on a 1% Earned Income Tax for Graham Local Schools. This money will go to operations. As a board and administrative team, we discussed what good will come from a successful passage on November 5th. If the levy passes, over the next five years, the district will bring back six certified positions and add another School Resource Officer, all of these will directly impact kids. Also with a successful vote in November, in looking at the budget and listening to parents, school fees and the school supply lists will be reduced, and pay-to-participate fees will be eliminated starting in the 25-26 school year. This is a direct benefit to the families we serve. These are just a couple of the highlights that were discussed and decided on by the board. There are more impacts that can be made based on what was discussed and agreed upon by the board if we are successful in November.

We are committed to transparency and open communication with our community as we navigate these challenges. I encourage all community members to stay engaged and support our schools through participation in board meetings, community forums, and by advocating for our district's needs. The board will be hosting an opportunity for the community to be engaged with the ongoing needs. This will be on October 21st at 5:30 pm at Graham Elementary School. We encourage all to attend, bring your questions and concerns. The regular board meeting will follow with a start time of 6:30 pm.

Together, we can continue to build on our successes and address the challenges ahead. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to Graham Local Schools. Let us work together to ensure a bright future for our students.

Here's wishing our farmers a safe and abundant harvest and as always, Go Falcons!

Connect with us! www.grahamlocalschools.org

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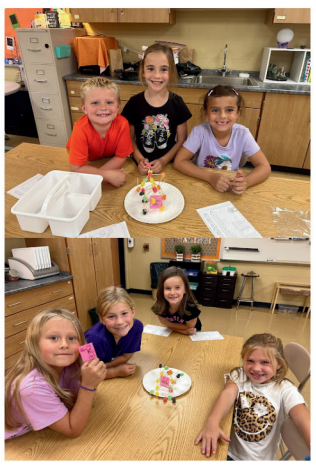
GES NEWS

FIFTH GRADE GEARS UP FOR GLEN HELEN

One of the most anticipated traditions at Graham Elementary is the fifth grade overnight field trip to Glen Helen. Leading up to the trip each year, fifth grade parents and students often have questions, and maybe a little apprehension, about what to expect. Some of those wonders were relieved this year during open house, as Kelsey and Samuel from Glen Helen, graciously set up a display with informational brochures and posters. They engaged with families, handed out stickers and pins, and even brought Marigold the Eastern Box Turtle! We are very grateful they were able to come to our open house to meet families and get them excited about our trip in the spring!

STEAM AT GES



S.T.E.A.M. class, which stands for **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **A**rt/**A**griculture and **M**ath, is off to an exciting start!

The focus of our STEAM class will be to inspire inquiry and curiosity. It will empower students to use creativity and exploration to connect their problem-solving skills to real-world problems. Students will work on strengthening their communication, collaboration and creative thinking skills, while working with their peers on a variety of design challenges.

All students in grades K-prep to 5th grade will attend STEAM class during their related arts rotation thanks to a grant we were awarded last year from Project Lead the Way.
Project Lead the Way: Launch, is a nationally recognized program that will complement the PLTW Gateway program that our middle school has implemented for years.

Students in Mrs. Daubenspeck and Mrs. Stinebaugh's 1st grade class worked hard to help save the Three Little Pigs from the Big Bad Wolf.

Students in Mrs. Fasse's 2nd grade class practiced decoding words with digraphs by playing the UFLI game "Roll & Read" (4 in a row) with a partner

USING AI TO ENGAGE INTERACTIVE LEARNING

Fifth graders wrote expository essays about an inventor who had to work extremely hard to make their idea a reality. In order to find reliable and dependable information, some classes got to "interview" their inventor. The fifth grade ELA teachers set up a chatbot that uses AI to ask inventors specific questions. The chatbot pulled information from reputable online sources and answered the students' questions as if they were in the room with them! Many students discovered new ideas and challenges the inventors faced and added this to their essay.Using AI appropriately can provide opportunities to students beyond the classroom as well as engaging, personalized learning.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

The first annual Graham Elementary Back to School Bash was a huge success! We were pleased to welcome well over 300 families and their children to the event on August 15. This event was made possible by the hard work of many GES staff members and the support of our community partners. Attendees visited stations including:

- Face painting by our fantastic Graham High School cheerleaders!
- Fun events and information from our St. Paris Library
- PTO swag sales and exciting Beyblades competitions
- Outdoor games for families and their children to play
- Coloring crafts when folks needed a break from the busy events
- Inflatable Adventures provided by Bounce Ohio,
- FREE haircuts provided by the fantastic staff at Carriage Cuts in Urbana, Ohio
- Haircut vouchers provided by Brandon Burke at Kingdom Cuts in St. Paris, Ohio
- Free books give away for families to build their at-home libraries
- Students and their families took advantage of a fun back-to-school photo booth
- Free school supplies and bookbags to ensure each learner has a successful start to the school year

Families also enjoyed hot dogs, chips, cookies and water to fuel themselves for the fun. KONA Ice was also on the premises for anyone interested in a sweet treat.

We were lucky to have the Dancin' Band from Falconland with us to perform and talk with our learners about their interest in the band.

Lastly, our Graham Local Schools bus drivers joined the fun by providing families and their children bus rides on the Graham Elementary and Graham Middle campus.

Thank you to all who attended and the many Graham Elementary staff members who gave of their time to make this event a huge success!

We're already planning for next year's event!

GRAHAM ELEMENTARY MUSIC IS ROCKING AND ROLLING!

Music students at Graham Elementary are being treated to a unique and diverse classroom experience this year. Students in all grade levels have been working rhythm skills while singing songs and playing musical games. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have been working on their music reading skills and will soon start their journey with the ukulele and steel drums.

Our Veterans Day Concert featuring 2nd and 3rd grade students will be on November 14th, 2024. The 2nd grade performance will start at 5:30 and the 3rd grade performance will start at 6:30. Both performances will be held at GES.

BE READY FOR WHATEVER LIFE 'THROWS' YOUR WAY

Heads up everyone! The students at Graham Elementary have been working on their throwing and catching skills during their Physical Education classes. Our students will hopefully be ready for whatever life "throws" their way. If your students are into sports such as football, softball and baseball, or if they are into leisure activities like cornhole and horseshoes, they should have the skills to get out there and play. Students in grades 3-5 played an exciting game called "Boom City" which focuses on overhand throwing and catching with their hands, but also allowed them to think of creative strategies to gain an advantage. Our younger students played a game called "Catch Everything" which gave them tons of repetitions for underhand throwing and catching with their hands. We wrapped up our throwing and catching unit with fun stations to work on throwing mechanics and friendly competition. Now it's time for you and your family to get outside and play some catch!

GES NEWS

GES PTO UPDATES AND INFO

Meet the Board
President
Mersedes Beasley
Vice President
Susan Bradshaw
Treasurer
Julie Pryor
Secretary
Ellen Holbrook

October
30th - Meeting in Graham Elementary Library @ 3:45pm

November
25th – Meeting in Graham Elementary Library @ 5:30pm

December
9th-13th – Holiday Shop for Students
18th – Meeting in Graham Elementary Library @ 3:45pm

Interested in volunteering or questions about any events?
Email us at gespto@grahamlocalschools.org

Want to keep up with what the PTO is up to?
Follow us on Class Dojo or join us on Facebook
Graham Elementary PTO
https://www.facebook.com/groups/grahampto

SLEEP: KEY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

From the Desk of Dr. Allison Fernander - school psychologist

According to the CDC, 6 out of 10 middle schoolers and 7 out of 10 high schoolers do not get enough sleep. Big deal? Yes! Sleep helps students stay focused, improve concentration, and academic performance. In fact, a recent study found that children who get less than 6 hours of sleep per night evidenced profound declines in academic performance (Creswell et al., 2023). The CDC recommends the following:

Ages 3-5: need 10-13 hours of sleep per day (including naps)
Ages 6-13: 9-12 hours
Ages 14-17: 8-10 hours

Tips for healthy sleep hygiene:
*Consistent sleep and wake schedules (yes, even weekends)
*Avoid naps once children are school age
*Get exercise during the day (shown to help kids sleep better at night) BUT...avoid evening exercise as it has the opposite effect
*SUN! encourage your child's exposure to natural light by getting them outdoors each day
*Put away all screens at least one hour before bedtime blue light suppresses natural melatonin levels and posts on social media may create worries for kids/teens at night
*Younger children may benefit from a transitional object if learning to sleep alone (eg., stuffed animal, favorite cuddle blanket)
*Establish a calm bedtime routine at least a half hour before bed each night (examples: reading together for younger children or teens may read their own book, bath/shower, brush teeth, lay out clothes for next day, calm time with pets, listen to calm music, quiet talk with parent)
*Avoid heavy conversations directly before bedtime
*Avoid eating right before bed
*Turn off all lights, with a night light where needed
*Healthy breakfast each morning helps jump start the body's clock at the right time and provides glucose and protein for BRAIN POWER!!! In a rush? Even a granola bar in the car is helpful!

GES STUDENT LIGHTHOUSE TEAM

Here at Graham Elementary School we have a phenomenal group of student leaders. These students went through a rigorous application process last spring to earn a place on the team for this school year! We held a summer training session right before school started where we reviewed Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Healthy Students, and their responsibility in promoting these habits to their peers through their various roles around the school. These students will take on a variety of responsibilities this year: daily video announcements, flag raising and lowering, and leading school wide assemblies, just to name a few.

This crew is already off to a great start! They led their very first assembly on September 6 where they welcomed our students back to school for the year. During this assembly they were able to remind fellow students of expectations around the school building, explain our falcon award system and introduce them to our School Wide WIG (Wildly Important Goal) for the year which is to accrue 30 days where the whole school remains referral free. This goal is tracked in the cafeteria where a flag is displayed with the running total of referral free days! Our students are beyond excited to meet this goal so that we can have another school wide celebration!

Please join GES in recognizing Delia Rose, Gemma Jacobs, Marlee Maurice, Cara Kizer, Teagan Stephens, Elliana Spence, Katie Hoskinson, Mya Taylor, Clara Shaeffer, Arabella Ryan, Addison Kellenberger, Briella Jenkins, Kelly Birchfield, Hayden Myers, Xavier Garcia, Liam Kizer, Reese Barger, Ava Terrell, Ellen Kies, Sophie Lester, and Nora Massie as our 2024-2025 Student Lighthouse Team!

GMS NEWS

CONTINUED SPONSORSHIP ALLOWS GRADE 8 TRIP TO FARM SCIENCE REVIEW

Thanks to a great partnership, the entire Graham Middle School 8th Grade class once again received sponsorship from Ohio Soybean Council/GrowNextGen to attend the Farm Science Review in September. This sponsorship was in the amount of $1,360 for tickets provided to staff and students.

Farm Science Review is an agriculture trade and education show that offers the opportunity to learn about conservation, the latest agriculture innovations, see field demonstrations, and visit with many exhibitors that show the variety of the agriculture field and its impact on our lives. This is an opportunity for our students to continue to expand on their prior life experiences and learning at GMS.

GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL RECYCLING CENTER

The center will be open the first and third Saturday each month from 10 AM to noon thanks to volunteers. We are only allowed to accept the following items: number one and number two plastic paper, cardboard, glass metal cans. Please be sure items are rinsed out and free of food residue. Remaining 2024 dates:
October 19
November 2
November 16
December 7
December 21

If interested in volunteering, please contact Mr. Guidera guideran@grahamlocalschools.org

GMS NEWS

POWER OF THE PEN

Power of the Pen is back for the 24-25 school year, and we're excited to begin practice this coming week! Many don't understand that we have to qualify to move on! The first competition is usually mid-winter. We head up to the host school and five of our best writers from each grade level write stories for three different prompts while under a strict 40 minutes time limit. Individuals are scored by a team of judges, and each grade level also gets a team average score. By the time a team or individuals move on to the state level, they will have scored higher than roughly 5,000 others in their age group.

This past May, three seventh graders qualified for state competition at Ashland University: Willow Lorenz, Kendall Nichols, and Daniel Spence. After a very exhausting day, we settled in to listen to the results, and were pleasantly surprised to find that Kendall and Daniel made it to one final writing round composed of the top 50 writers. From this round Daniel placed 45th, and Kendall placed 25th!

We're proud of their achievements and the unique camaraderie that the team members share. Willow, Kendall, and Daniel are back, along with the majority of their peers from last year's team. We'll be facing some new challenges this year, as we will need to fundraise for our membership and traveling fees. Keep an eye out for chances to support us, and we will keep you all in the loop. We can't wait to try to break their records, and we start NOW.

FFA AT GMS

This spring the A.B. Graham Ohio Hi-Point Middle School FFA Chapter wrapped the 2023-2024 school year up with an awards luncheon for members, State FFA Convention in Columbus, and the distribution of marigolds to preschoolers for Mother's Day. FFA members met in Mrs. Peterson's room during their lunch periods where they enjoyed lunch and were recognized for their various achievements throughout the school year. Students traveled to Columbus to the Ohio Expo Center for State FFA Convention at the beginning of May where they participated in a tour of the Anthony Thomas chocolate factory, attended sessions highlighting the achievements of our high school's FFA members and those throughout the state, listened to motivational speakers and attended the career show. We ended the year with a visit to Graham's preschool where we took each student their very own marigold that they started from seed during one of our previous visits. We look forward each year to our preschool partnership and "agvocating" for agriculture with our younger friends!

The start of the 2024-2025 school year means Farm Science Review, preschool book walk, labs and changes to the Graham Middle School Ohio Hi-Point FFA Chapter. This year the high school level Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource (AFNR) course is no longer being offered at the middle school due to recent cuts and restructuring of teachers. Mrs. Peterson is continuing to offer the students at GMS an opportunity to explore agriculture, FFA and Ag based careers through the Graham Middle School Ohio Hi-Point FFA club. Students will not be members of the state and National FFA in middle school, that opportunity will have to wait until high school like the previous model prior to the charter of the middle school chapter. Students will still "agvocate" at the preschool, take agricultural based study trips to explore careers, new advancements in agriculture and gain leadership skills.

GMS 8th grade FFA members along with the other 8th grade students, attended Farm Science Review to explore new technology in agriculture, careers, and colleges, attend demonstrations, and more at the 2024 Farm Science Review. FFA members in 8th grade held the fall book walk for preschool students. They read the book Leaf Man to nearly 70 preschool students, helped them make their own leaf man and provided them with an "edible tree" snack where they constructed their own tree with branches, leaves and fruit. FFA members will pick an agricultural topic/theme, engaging activity, and hands-on activity to implement with the preschool students each month.

Mrs. Peterson's 6th grade students have been busy learning about the 16 career clusters and the 3 E's (employment, enrollment, enlistment) as related to their options after high school graduation. The 7th grade Intro to Ag students have participated in several labs including making a solar oven to cook smores, completing their shop project (triangle jump-a-peg game), taste testing and identifying foods using their 5 senses and more. The 8th grade Careers and Leadership students have been working on their communication and employability skills, 4 year plans for high school and are getting ready to take a trip to Ohio Hi-Point Career Center to explore their programs.

"HISTORY CLASS IS SO BORING!"

7th Grade World History is back again! Entering my eighth year here at GMS, I thought I would offer a view of what teaching history looks like. Despite having so many years and places to cover, one of the real questions for history teachers has been - "How do we get students to care about something that happened forever ago"? History teachers find our subject endlessly fascinating, but students usually don't. This disconnect creates a problem - students don't do their best work when they don't care, and we need them to do their best work to help them grow. History teachers are constantly finding new ways to get students to care. We talk about it ad-nauseum, plan with it in mind, and what makes it even more challenging is that there isn't one right answer.

One of the ways I've found to engage students is to treat them like historians. I've learned over the years is that middle schoolers absolutely *love* to argue. So do most historians. Historians read, analyze, develop opinions, and then argue those opinions with anyone foolish enough to listen. I offer my students that same opportunity. We begin with a historical question or controversy. Then students research, discuss with their peers, and finally are given the chance to argue their stance in writing. For example, my students just finished a lesson series titled "Was Alexander actually Great?". In the next unit we'll research and debate the idea of corporal punishment (which is the standard for lawbreaking throughout most of the time we study). I'll then ask them to relate history to their school experience. The final question asks "Would you rather serve an after school detention or receive corporal punishment in the form of paddling?". Paddling isn't making a comeback, but students love to argue about whether or not it should, and as a result I get their best work. They develop their reading, writing, and social skills all at once. I am always impressed with the nuance that they find on complex ideas that are well outside the usual discussion topics in 7th grade. Nothing brings me more joy than students telling me they were talking about my class out at recess or at lunch. If history class makes its way into their conversations outside my room? That's a win. So... talk to your kids. They have lots to say if we ask the right questions, especially if we're willing to argue.

-Godspeed,
Mr. Callison

GHS NEWS

GHS HOMECOING COURT

Front (L to R): Morgan Spitler, Riley McAlexander, Annika Kohler, Kaylynn Dibert, Adyson Gibson, Hailey Nash, Gretchen Boggs, Payton Maurice, Back (L to R): Brigg Rice, Arden McGuire, Caden Strader, Breyton Reisinger, Caleb McLean, Zach Wheeland, Adam Levy, and Cole Blevins

Congratulations to Adam Levy and Gretchen Boggs for being crowned King and Queen

WHAT'S NEW WITH LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Students in the HS Leadership and Community Engagement class are planning several events for the year. We are partnering with Student Senate, National Honor Society and DECA for these events. We're looking forward to coordinating with our community to make these events successful. The following dates should be noted:

- A Household Item Drive- running from October 5th -December 20th. Donations from this drive will be given to the Saint Paris Food Pantry and the Caring Kitchen. The group also hopes to benefit the community meals at the Baptist church and the Homeless dinner at the caring kitchen this fall.
- A group of students would like to work with elementary students who are struggling or just need a mentor. These high school students hope to develop a Big Brother, Big Sister relationship with the younger ages. The idea was created since there is no FLIGHT Program this year. The high school students hope to start in October and visit the students monthly.
- Cancer Awareness is another concern the students are focusing on. This group started with a donation bucket and "Pass the Helmet" at the October 4th football game. All proceeds of this will be donated to the Champaign County Cancer Association or The James Cancer hospital.
- The Senior Citizens Breakfast will also be back! We will be contacting the local churches and past participants through phone calls and flyers posted in the community. This event will be held on November 13th.

We'll be posting various events throughout the newsletters and hope our events are supported this year! The students are excited to serve others.

GHS IS WORKING TO LEAD AND CONNECT!

The Presidents of DECA, FCCLA, FFA, National Honor Society and Student Council are working together to plan a leadership training for all officers. It is our goal this year to create an atmosphere where we all work together to help each other. Officers from all the organizations led the first training on October 8th. Topics on the agenda included:

- How are we already effective?
- What roles do our leaders have?
- What Goals do we have for our year?
- What should be some future activities we could share with other groups?

The students continue to meet as officer teams throughout the school to support and grow together as leaders.

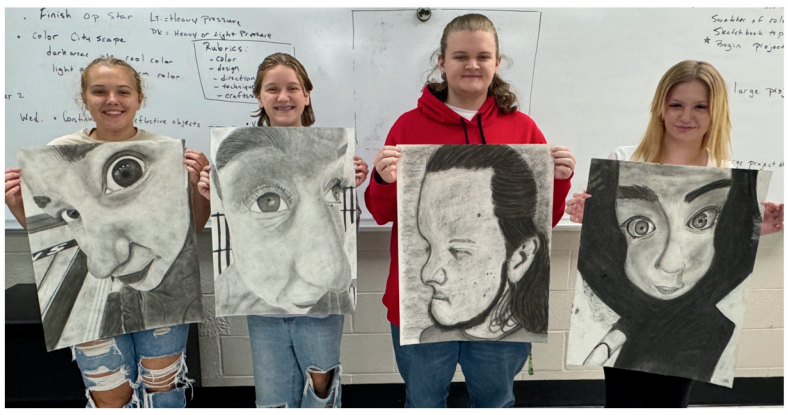
STATE FCCLA PRESIDENT

Malachi Teets was elected in April of 2024 as the FCCLA State President. This has provided him many opportunities for leadership and will benefit him and our chapter throughout the year. Malachi has represented Graham HS and Ohio Hi Point at many events, he is running the State FCCLA meetings and visiting schools for recruitment and motivation to many chapters. Malachi is an excellent student and started as a freshman who wasn't sure he wanted to speak in front of others. He has competed each year in high school in FCCLA Star or online events. This spurred him to want to apply for an office in the past two years. FCCLA has provided him the experiences to grow as a leader, a speaker and a person. We are excited to see and experience the opportunities provided by this venture! Congratulations Malachi!

FCCLA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Eleven FCCLA students competed at National Leadership Training this summer in Seattle, Students competed in events with topics involving Chapter Service Display and Service Project, Digital Video-Domestic Violence, The Importance of Voting with Public Policy Advocate, and Adopt an Animal with Public Policy Advocate. Each of the students were First or Second Place at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in April. The students were also able to visit Pikes Peek Market and see the fish throwing, enjoy the scenery of the Japanese Garden, tour and climb the Space Needle and visit the Seattle shores. Two groups of students were recognized for their hard work with 3rd Place- Digital Stories for Change- Malachi Teets, Rebecca Johnson and Xander Diaz and 6th place in the Nation for Chapter Service Project- Portfolio, Payton Hunt, in their events! Congratulations to all members who earned their way to compete at FCCLA National Leadership Conference.

AN EXTREME PERSPECTIVE



Mr. Buschur's Art 3 students have spent the first part of the school year working on an Extreme angle portrait of themselves. These portraits are completed using charcoal on paper. Extreme angle portraits offer a fresh and dynamic perspective in the realm of portraiture, challenging traditional views and inviting the viewer into a more intimate relationship with the subject. By utilizing charcoal on paper, artists can effectively convey the dramatic effects of light and shadow, enhancing the three-dimensional quality of their work.

Charcoal is a versatile medium known for its rich blacks and subtle gradations. When creating extreme angle portraits, artists often start with a loose underdrawing to establish proportions and angles. This initial sketch allows for adjustments, ensuring the final composition captures the intended perspective—whether it's a low angle looking up or a high angle looking down.

Once the foundation is laid, artists layer charcoal to build depth. The contrast between dark shadows and light highlights is crucial; it not only defines the subject's features but also adds a sense of volume and movement. Techniques such as smudging can soften edges and create a more lifelike quality, while erasing can bring out highlights, enhancing the dramatic effect.

Using extreme angles shifts the viewer's experience. A low angle can evoke feelings of power and dominance in the subject, while a high angle may suggest vulnerability. This manipulation of perspective can provoke emotional responses, making the portrait more than just a representation; it becomes a narrative.

Finishing touches involve refining details and ensuring the composition feels balanced despite the unusual angles. Artists often sign their work discreetly to maintain the focus on the portrait itself.

In conclusion, extreme angle portraits in charcoal not only showcase technical skill but also invite deeper engagement from the viewer. This approach transforms simple likenesses into powerful visual stories, making it a compelling avenue for contemporary artists.

ATHLETIC AND DISTRICT NEWS

GRAHAM CROSS COUNTRY

This year finds our cross country teams doing a great job!! The team is having fun and improving as the year progresses. Our middle school girls' team consists of Stella Leighty, Sabrina Konicki, Kendall Nichols, and Hattie Uhl. Although they don't get to score as a team they are improving and pushing themselves. Practicing with the high school team gives them great leadership and runners to pace with. Their future is bright!

Our high school girls team has returning seniors Hailey Nash, Ella Parke, and Demi Show bringing leadership to the team. Rounding out the team are Tori Ford, Ella Putterbaugh and Grace Smith. This tight-knit team is led by Hailey Nash who began her season by winning the Northwestern Warrior Classic for the 4th time! Hailey placed 2nd out of 269 girls at the Troy Twilight race. Troy Twilight was also the best team finish of the year with the girls finishing 10th of a large field of 23 teams. This is a great accomplishment! The team is working hard and improving as the season progresses with sights on a strong race for everyone at CBC and district.

Our high school boys team is strong with both returning runners and new runners for the future teams. This year there are 5 seniors steering the team; Braden Bost, Sebastian Bowers, Weston Helman, Tyler Shefbuch, and Ayden Rudolf. Joining the seniors is another 10 underclassmen with talent; Ty Allen, Jack Bonham, Daniel Bonham, Brayden Crooks, Maddux Cushard, Hunter DeMarco, Andon Hill, Jesse Jenkins, Harlyn Putterbaugh, and Sully Uhl. This deep and talented team is led by Ayden Rudolf who finished 18th out of 361 runners at the Troy Twilight race. The team also had an impressive finish at Troy Twilight finishing 13th out of a field of 32 teams. Ayden is followed closely by junior Jack Bonham. These two finished 26th and 28th respectively out of 145 runners at the Ohio Caverns Invitational last weekend. This team is looking forward to a great race and finish at the CBC meet and districts later in October.

Of these seniors 4 of them have run together since their first practice in 7th grade and were joined by 3 more as 8th graders. Our last senior joined this fun loving group last year. They have worked hard for many years but are excited about the underclassmen taking the reins to keep the team going into the future! Come join the cross country teams at Graham's course for the CBC race on October 12th to watch our seniors finish out their last regular season race.

ZACH WHEELAND
SEPTEMBER
CBC ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

SOPHIA MANNIER
AUGUST
CBC ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

STUDENTS IN FALL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

High school athletics play a crucial role in fostering teamwork, discipline, and school spirit among students. This fall, our program boasts a total of 206 dedicated athletes, including 37 seniors who are showcasing their leadership and commitment as they conclude their high school careers. These athletes not only compete fiercely in their respective sports but also embody the values of perseverance and sportsmanship, making a lasting impact on their peers and the school community.

DISTRICT-WIDE INITIATIVES/PROGRAMMING MAKE GOOD SENSE FOR OUR STUDENTS

Our students are fortunate as they travel through only three buildings in their PreK-12 educational experience at Graham Local Schools. However, there are still many transitions that they face and have to navigate as they progress from one grade level to another!

Ways that we work intentionally to make these transitions as seamless as possible include:

1. Curriculum connections
2. Positive choice/decision-making (PBIS...Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)

1. With the adoption of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Into Reading, we now have Into Reading K-5 or Into Literature 6-12. The lessons build upon one another with similar structure, vocabulary, strategies and resources! Our teachers have utilized these resources and guided our students to achieve at increasingly higher levels in grades 6-12. We are excited to add the elementary-level version to our younger students to provide these structures and helpful supports to our students, beginning in kindergarten!

1. At the elementary level, our students learn intentional lessons through the **Leader In Me** program utilizing our **Lighthouse Team** (adult and students) to lead and guide the work with all classrooms/all students! Be Proactive, Begin with the End in Mind, Put First Things First, Think Win-Win, Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood, Synergize. Graham Elementary School just held a Leader In Me Town Hall Mtg! It was led by students and guided by our adult leaders! These student leaders shared the building expectations and the lessons students will learn about this year. They also helped their fellow students to understand how these decisions lead to a much more enjoyable educational experience...more structure and calm, more learning, less stress and drama and concerns. Students receive certificates and pins for special lanyards.

At the middle school, our students follow the work established at the elementary with their HERO program!
H=Helpful, E=Engaged in academics, R=Respectful and O=Own their actions/reactions! Staff members recognize students who display these behaviors and students recognize staff members whom they feel exhibit the same traits. These role models are recognized at building-wide PBIS assemblies. These gatherings are completely run by the students and guided by the adult members of the PBIS team. Students earn t-shirts and certificates and locker stickers. Staff receive certificates and small yet special gifts!

At the high school, our students and staff have followed suit with what is happening in grades PreK-8. Several efforts have occurred over the years through the work of Leadership classes and some individual teachers. NOW, the effort is coordinated and collaborative and is representative of all students and staff. Students and staff are focused on looking **INWARD** with self-respect, resiliency and accountability, **OUTWARD** with compassion, support and reliability and **FORWARD** with hard work, motivation and preparation. Students and staff earn points as a way of being recognized for being noticed doing these things! A store has been set up in the high school where voted-on items (coffee, spirit wear, school supplies, etc) can be purchased with their points.
Our intent and focus is to help each and every member of the Graham Local Schools Family to learn and practice these traits routinely and automatically so that we can live out our mission of succeeding today and being prepared for tomorrow!

Fall 2024

TeleGraham

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SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

2024 DISTRICT REPORT CARD

For the **second year in a row**, Graham Local Schools has earned a 4-star Rating from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. This achievement is a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students, staff, and parents/guardians. We are proud of the progress we continue to make together. The following is a breakdown of what this rating means and how we are performing in key areas:

Overall Rating - 4 Stars (Exceeds State Standards)

5-Star Ratings in Gap Closing and Graduation Rate

- **Gap Closing:** This measures how well we are meeting the needs of all our students, particularly students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, and gifted students. A **5-star rating** means that we are excelling in ensuring that all students, regardless of their starting point, are progressing and achieving success.
- **Graduation Rate:** This reflects the percentage of students graduating within four or five years. Our **5-star rating** is a huge accomplishment, demonstrating that our staff is focusing on providing the necessary supports for students while preparing them for life after graduation. Graham High School had a 4 Year Graduation Rate of 97.8%.

4-Star Rating in Progress

- **Progress:** This area evaluates the academic growth our students are making from one year to the next. A **4-star rating** shows that our students are making strong academic gains and that we are exceeding in moving them forward in their learning from year to year.

3-Star Rating in Achievement

- Achievement: This measures how well our students are performing on state tests. While we received a **3-star rating**, meaning we are meeting expectations, it also highlights an area where we can continue to improve and strive for higher levels of academic success. The 5-star Gap Closing Rating and 4-star Progress Rating indicate that students are growing from year to year, which is needed to move to a higher achievement rating.

Receiving a **4-star district rating** for two consecutive years is a huge accomplishment for our district. It speaks to our staff's dedication and our students' hard work. We will continue to work to build on this success as we navigate reduced positions in the district over the past two years.

Rating Key	
Star Rating	**Description**
5	Significantly Exceeds
4	Exceeds
3	Meets
2	Needs Support
1	Needs Significant Support

Schools	Overall Rating	Achievement	Progress	Gap Closing	Graduation Rate	Early Literacy
Graham Elementary School	3.5	4	2	4		3
Graham High School	3.5	3	3	3	5	
Graham Middle School	4	3	4	5		

FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN HERE

Local District Comparisons							
District	Overall Star Rating	Achievement Star Rating	Progress Star Rating	Gap Closing Star Rating	Graduation Star Rating	Early Literacy Star Rating	Spending Per Pupil (State Average $12,396)
Miami East	5	5	5	5	5	4	$12,952
West Liberty	4.5	5	4	5	5	4	$12,784
Ben Logan	4.5	4	4	5	5	3	$11,334
Graham	4	3	4	5	5	3	$11,494
Indian Lake	4	4	3	5	4	3	$11,682
Mechanicsburg	4	4	3	4	4	3	$11,715
Triad	3.5	4	2	4	5	4	$11,472
Riverside	3.5	3	2	2	5	3	$14,610
Urbana	3	3	3	3	1	2	$11,757
Northwestern	3	3	2	3	5	2	$11,462

WE'RE HIRING!!

Graham Local Schools is hiring substitutes in all departments for the 2024-2025 school year! For more information, please check our website under employment opportunities or call our district office @ 937-663-4123 all aplications must be completed online.
We look forward to meeting you!

GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION LEVY TOWN HALL

The next Board of Education Meeting is Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6:30PM in the Graham Elementary School Cafeteria.

There will be an open hour from 5:30 to 6:30 for community members to come in and interact with the Board regarding the upcoming Levy.

OPERATIONS UPDATES

BAUGHMAN AGRICULTURAL AND ATHLETIC GROUNDS UPDATE

Baughman Agricultural and Athletic Grounds Update

Graham Local Schools is thrilled to provide an update on a transformative legacy gift from Clifford Baughman, a former Graham teacher, school board member, and dedicated community supporter.

Mr. Baughman approached Graham's administration with a heartfelt desire to make a significant contribution that would benefit future generations of Graham students. His family generously donated $710,502.10 to help Graham purchase a 46.7-acre property adjacent to Graham High School, with the remaining funds earmarked for initial land development.

This adjacent property, located directly east of the high school, was exclusively offered to the district by the Donnan Family, providing a unique opportunity for growth. After thoughtful discussions on how the property could best be used to benefit students, the Baughman family's gift enabled the district to close on the purchase of the property on July 1, 2024, for $475,000. The purchase was made possible with significant in-kind support from Henderson Land Investment and Gina Roseberry, who helped reduce realtor fees and commissions.

Following the purchase, a priority list of projects was created to begin developing the land, with $235,502.10 remaining from the donation. The first task was to demolish the structures on the property and clear trees to improve visibility and remove debris. This effort was led by district personnel and community partners, including Tim and Vickie Howell, Timber and Steel, and Perdue Tree Service, who provided labor at a significantly reduced cost. JSP Fire District members also volunteered their time to conduct a controlled burn of the brush and stumps. **All land improvements will be covered by the generous donation from Mr. Baughman and through donations and in-kind work from local businesses and community members.**

One pressing issue addressed during the development was the need for additional event parking, as previous events often led to overflow parking on State Route 36, creating a safety hazard. McGuire Farms and Excavating stepped forward to help design and install a new parking lot where the structures once stood, providing much-needed space for event parking. Tom Moore Excavating also contributed by removing the fence row between the high school and the new property, allowing seamless access between the two areas.

As part of the project, six acres of land were leveled and prepared for future athletic and band practice fields, with Tom Moore Excavating donating the design, engineering work, and discounted excavation work. The district is now ready for the next phase of preparing the field, including rockhound work and seeding.

Additional improvements include the installation of a sign designed and donated by Streamline Productions, recognizing the generosity of the donors and informing the community about the project. The district also redesigned the cross-country course to incorporate the new property, allowing all runners to stay behind the high school and improving safety by eliminating the need to cross driveways and stop traffic during races.

Looking ahead, there are exciting plans for the property. Graham's FFA program will be able to utilize the tillable acreage for agricultural education and production, while wooded areas offer new possibilities for outdoor learning. Future dreams include building an Ag barn for students to raise animals onsite, installing a well for irrigation and future livestock needs, and adding lights to the new parking area. The district will also work to relocate the discus competition area to the new property, freeing up space for future expansion near the athletic building and protecting the athletic building from being hit by rogue discs.

This project is a testament to the power of community and generosity. Graham Local Schools extends heartfelt gratitude to the Baughman Family and all the local businesses and community members who have contributed time, labor, and resources to make this vision a reality. The legacy gift from the Baughman Family will have a lasting impact, providing new opportunities for generations of Graham students.

Contact Mr. Don Burley (burleyd@grahamlocalschools.org) if you are interested in donating or helping with the project.

For more information, progress pictures and to stay up-to-date on the project, scan the QR code.

K-5 SCHOOL BUS SAFEETY TRAINING AT GES

What a fantastic day at Graham Elementary! Our bus drivers had an amazing time hosting our annual K-5 bus safety event, where students learned all about safe boarding, staying seated, and how to cross the street safely. Talk to your students at home about bus safety! #SAFEBUS

Find all of our bus safety rules on the Graham Local Schools website under the Transportation page. Or scan the QR code with your smart phone!

GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOLS RECEIVES OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION SAFETY INTERVENTION GRANT

Graham Local Schools has been selected as a recipient of the $40,000 safety intervention grant from BWC to replace equipment in the district. The grant is a 3-1 matching grant so Graham will receive $3.00 for every $1.00 spent up to $40,000. There are very specific items/categories that qualify for this grant. Graham will be able to replace a riding floor scrubber, replace a floor conditioner, and add a snowblower to the district kubota side by side to clear sidewalks in the winter. All three of these items are important to maintain safe and healthy buildings. Total cost of the new equipment will be $53,000 with the only cost to Graham being $13,000. The district continues to look for all grant funding opportunities to benefit the school district.