



Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens this week on Friday, May 1! See page 3 for more info.

District News

As we move through the heart of the fourth quarter, the East Porter County School Corporation Board of Trustees is reaching a pivotal milestone in the search for our next district leader. This transition follows the retirement announcement of Dr. Aaron Case, who will conclude his dedicated service at the end of the 2025–2026 school year. The Board remains committed to a process that is both thorough and reflective of the unique values that define East Porter.

The Board remains deeply grateful for the overwhelming community participation throughout the feedback stage earlier this year. The insights gathered from parents, staff, and residents have provided clear qualities we are seeking in our next superintendent. These findings have been instrumental in shaping the criteria for our final candidate pool, as they highlight the importance of balancing innovative growth with the foundational values that make East Porter a special place for families to learn and thrive. You can find the survey results on our website.

As we look toward the upcoming months, the board has dedicated significant time to formal interviews and rigorous vetting of our top prospects. Our primary objective is to finalize the appointment by July 1, 2026, which will provide a necessary window for a smooth leadership transition and ensure the district remains on a steady course for the future.

Coming Home: Expanding Our Applied Skills Program

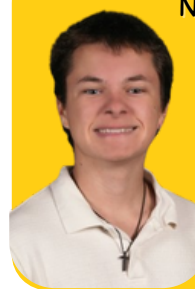
We are thrilled to announce a significant enhancement to our Special Education programming. Starting next school year, our Applied Skills students will be returning to their home district!

New classrooms are being prepared at the Washington Township Elementary and Middle/High School campuses to house these programs. This move allows our students to learn and grow alongside their peers in their own community. As teacher Megan Lawrence shared in a recent Inside East Porter podcast, "There is nothing like the feeling of bringing our students back home where they belong."



Celebrating Our Stars Student Spotlight

This section highlights a student or students who have gone above and beyond. Congratulations to our three exceptional East Porter students who were finalists for the 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program!



Nathaniel Rackouski

Kouts sophomore Nate Rackouski recently represented Kouts High School at the State ISSMA competition, where he delivered a standout performance that earned him a prestigious gold rating. This achievement highlights his incredible musical talent and the dedicated work ethic he brings to his craft. By reaching the highest honors at the state level, Nate has made our entire school community proud with his commitment to excellence.



Jody Stump

Washington Township freshman Jody Stump is rewriting the record books, already shattering school marks for the 800m, 1600m, and 3200m. Her success is fueled by an incredible work ethic, including a 300-mile summer training block that also helped her secure the school's 5k cross-country record. As just a freshman, Jody's elite discipline has set a new standard for the Senator athletic program.



Aiden Dippo

Morgan Township senior Aiden Dippo exemplifies a well-rounded leader, ranking in the academic Top 10 while earning the PCC Conference Mental Attitude Award for his character and sportsmanship in soccer. As a multi-sport captain and active club member, he consistently elevates those around him through his dedicated involvement. Ultimately, his commitment to servant leadership sets him apart as he prioritizes the needs of his peers and staff to create a positive community.



Staff Spotlight

We are thrilled to shine this quarter's staff spotlight on Megan Thompson, the visionary educator who has helped build our Little Stars Preschool program from the ground up. Megan first joined the East Porter family as a first-grade instructional assistant, but it quickly became clear that her wealth of experience and passion for early childhood education made her the perfect person to lead our new initiative. Before joining our team, Megan served as a primary teacher and gained preschool experience outside of the public school setting, bringing a unique and well-rounded perspective to our district.

Megan's dedication to her craft is evident in her impressive qualifications, as she is dually licensed in both general education and special education. Furthermore, she has successfully completed the Science of Reading requirements, ensuring that our youngest learners receive high-quality, research-based instruction from day one. After taking time away from the classroom to raise her own boys, Megan returned to education with a renewed energy that has shaped Little Stars into a truly special place. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a talented, inclusive, and student-focused educator leading this program and setting a wonderful foundation for our future students.



-Megan Thompson

Featured on the Inside East Porter podcast, episode 9.

<https://bit.ly/4sHxIM1>

Welcoming the Class of 2039: Kindergarten Registration is Open!

It is time to begin the journey for our newest learners as East Porter County School Corporation prepares for the arrival of our incoming kindergarten class for the 2026-2027 school year. We invite all families with children who will be five years old on or before August 1, 2026, to finalize their registration as soon as possible. Welcoming your child into our school community is a milestone we look forward to every year, and we are fully committed to ensuring a smooth and exciting transition for your future student.

If you were unable to attend our recent Kindergarten Round-Up events, please contact the main office of your home elementary school today to begin the enrollment process. Our staff is ready to assist you with the necessary paperwork, including the submission of your child's birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residency. Getting these details squared away early is vital for our building teams as they finalize classroom planning for the upcoming school year, and we cannot wait to see your child thrive as they begin their educational career with us this August.





Upgrading Your Experience: The Move to Skyward Qmlativ

East Porter County School Corporation is pleased to announce that we are transitioning to an updated Skyward experience. Skyward, our Student Information System, is the web-based tool that gives you control over your students' data.

We are moving to Qmlativ® Skyward, the next evolution of the platform. This upgrade offers a superior mobile experience and leverages the latest technology. You will be able to access up-to-date information, manage fees, and view payments with a customizable homepage and significantly easier navigation between siblings.

To accommodate this transition, we are opening registration earlier than usual this year. **Registration for the upcoming school year will open on Friday, May 1.**

We encourage all parents/guardians to register their child(ren) as soon as the window opens in May. By registering early, you ensure a smoother start to the year. Additionally, this earlier timeline means that secondary-level students will be scheduling their classes for the next school year sooner with guidance counselors.

East Porter County School Corporation will complete the software migration this summer (tentatively between late June and mid-July). Please note that during the migration to Qmlativ® Skyward, access to your Family Access Account will be temporarily disabled. When the migration is complete, you will receive updated information on how to log in to the brand new platform and app.

Community Information



Help Me Grow Porter County is a vital community resource dedicated to ensuring every child has the best possible start in life during the critical first five years of brain development. This free service provides families with a centralized access point to connect with essential health and developmental resources, including early developmental screenings, parent support, and local resource navigation. By offering tools like the CDC's Milestone Tracker and access to programs such as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Help Me Grow empowers parents to monitor their child's growth and address any concerns early. We encourage our families with young children to explore these comprehensive support systems by visiting helpmegrowpc.org or calling 219-476-1904 to help their children reach their full potential before they even step foot in a classroom.

Local Events

[Harlem Wizards Game @ Valparaiso High School](#)- May 1, 2026. The game begins at 7:00 PM and the doors will open at 6:00 PM. Be sure to purchase your tickets in advance.

[Porter County Public Library Programs](#): Various branches offer regular, free activities, including "Open Play Group: Dinosaurs" (Portage Branch), "Art: Monet's Lily Pads" (Kouts Branch), and "Science Kids" (Valparaiso Branch).

[Porter County Parks Programs](#): Youth athletic programs, such as track and field, are available for ages 4-12 at Sunset Hill Farm.

[Camp FUNset](#): Summer camp at Sunset Hill Farm County Park (Camp FUNset) in Valparaiso features eight different weeks of themed experiences. For kids entering grades K-6, camp runs Monday-Friday from 9am to 3pm. Little Camp is for ages 3-5 years old and runs Monday-Friday 9am to 12pm.