The Pulse of East Porter

East Porter County School Corporation | January 2026

District News

As we turn the calendar to 2026, we hope you all enjoyed a restful and restorative winter break. There is something uniquely energizing about the start of a new year in a school district. It provides us with a natural moment to pause, reflect on our achievements from the fall, and sharpen our focus for the months ahead.

Reflecting on our progress, the first half of the school year was filled with "East Porter Pride." From the academic growth we've seen in our elementary reading programs to the incredible displays of sportsmanship and talent on our courts and stages, our students continue to prove that big things happen in close-knit communities. Our faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to create environments where every student—whether at Washington Township, Kouts, or Morgan Township—feels seen, challenged, and supported.

A school district is only as strong as the community that surrounds it. We are profoundly grateful for your continued partnership. Whether you are a parent volunteering for the PTO, a local business sponsoring an event, or a neighbor attending a basketball game, you are a vital part of the East Porter success story.

2026-2027 PRESCHOOL APPLICATIONS

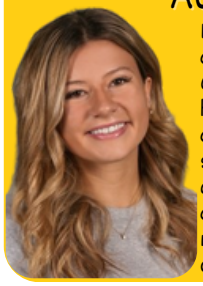
Applications for the Little Stars Preschool 2026-2027 school year at Morgan Township Elementary will open soon, with the application window expected to begin in mid-January. This preschool program is focused on preparing children for kindergarten through a balance of social development and academic readiness. To be eligible for the upcoming year, children must be at least four years old by August 1, 2026, and must be fully potty trained before the program begins. Because space is limited and sessions fill up quickly, interested families are encouraged to monitor the East Porter and Morgan Township Elementary website and live feed for the official application link, tuition rates, and specific registration requirements. For further details, please contact the Morgan Township Elementary office at (219) 462-8373.



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!



Aurora Tru Henrichs

Kouts senior Aurora Tru Henrichs was named a finalist for the 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. In addition to this honor, she recently earned a first-place finish at the district DECA competition and currently serves as a DECA State Officer. We congratulate Tru on these impressive achievements and appreciate the way she represents the Kouts community at both the district and state levels.



Rob McGowan

Washington Township senior Rob McGowan was named a finalist for the 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. This recognition follows his recent first-place finish at the district DECA competition, where he excelled in business and marketing challenges. We congratulate Rob on these significant accomplishments and are proud of the way he represents our school community as he prepares for his future.



Lucia Hensley

Morgan Township senior Lucia Hensley was named a finalist for the 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. In addition to this achievement, Lucia earned a first-place finish in Original Oratory at the La Porte Invitational Speech and Debate competition. We congratulate Lucia on these impressive milestones and celebrate her continued dedication to excellence both in the classroom and in competitive events.



Tune In: East Porter Launches New District Podcast

East Porter is excited to announce the launch of our brand-new district podcast, Inside East Porter, a platform designed to bring our community behind the scenes of our schools. This new initiative aims to share the stories of our students, staff, and programs in a convenient, audio-first format. Whether you are driving to work or at home, you can now tune in to hear directly from the people who make East Porter a special place to learn.

Each episode will feature a mix of interviews and updates, ranging from deep dives into student projects to conversations with veteran educators. Listeners can look forward to hearing more about recent achievements, as well as previews of upcoming events and district initiatives. Our goal is to provide a new layer of transparency and connection, ensuring that every family feels informed and engaged with the progress of our students. You can find the podcast on Spotify, with new episodes released frequently.

Listen at:

https://open.spotify.com/show/4B5ofta6XDWBsmfv41gAd7

Staff Spotlight

East Porter County School Corporation celebrates Mr. Randy Feola for being named the Indiana Middle School Academic Coach of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals. This honor comes as Mr. Feola marks 20 years as an academic coach at Washington Township Middle/High School, where he has been a consistent contributor to the district's academic programs. He has become known for his willingness to step in and assist with various school needs whenever they arise. Whether in the classroom or supporting broader school activities, Mr. Feola remains a steady presence and a dedicated advocate for the students he serves.

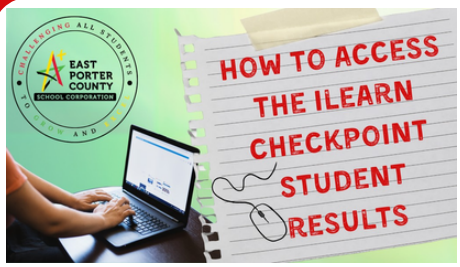
A significant part of Mr. Feola's coaching tenure involves the success of his Social Studies Academic Teams, which have earned nine state championships under his guidance. By preparing students for these competitions year after year, he has helped maintain a steady tradition of academic participation within the school. We congratulate Mr. Feola on receiving this professional recognition and appreciate his long-term commitment to the students of Washington Township. Great Job Mr. Feola!







-Randy Feola



ILEARN Checkpoints

🚨 Parents, you can now access your student's ILEARN Checkpoint 1 assessment scores through the ILEARN Family Portal🚨
https://in-familyportal.cambiumast.com/#/

Not only will you be able to view their scores, you can also access these helpful resources below!👇
📄Individual student reports with interpretative guides
📚Educational resources
🔍A performance overview to help identify your child's strengths and areas for growth

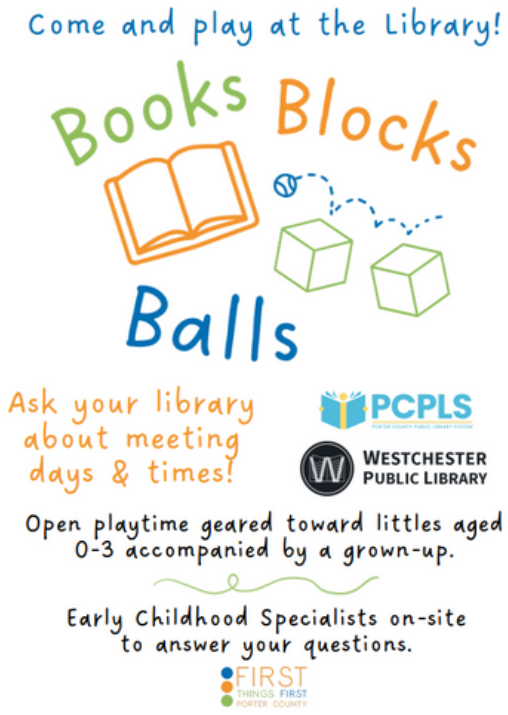
We are pleased to announce that individual student results from the most recent ILEARN Checkpoint 1 assessment, including the unique 6-digit access code needed for the ILEARN Family Portal, have now been published. You can find this information in Skyward Family Access under the Portfolio section.

Students will take ILEARN Checkpoint 2 in the next few weeks, and the results should be available around the end of January.

Community Information

Snowshoe Rentals: Indiana Dunes State Park

The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center offers snowshoe rental for all ages! When there is at least 4 inches of snow on the ground, one can explore the dunes with this fun outdoor recreational equipment. A driver's license is needed, and the cost is $7.00 for the entire day. Call the Nature Center with questions about snow conditions. 219-926-1390. Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Porter County Public Library



The PCPLS Digital Library is always open!! Explore their awesome digital resources while cozied up at home:
https://www.pcpls.org/resources

- Craftsy- Instructions and project ideas for a variety of crafting mediums
- Hoopla- Digital eBooks, audiobooks, movies, music, comics, and TV shows
- IndieFlix- Feature films, shorts, documentaries and series from around the world
- Kanopy- Critically-acclaimed movies, documentaries, foreign films and more
- Libby- Digital eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, graphic novels and more
- Qello Concerts- Stream 1000s of concert films and documentaries
- Tumblebooks- Animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading.

Text **PORTER** to **274448** to get messages about local events, age-based parenting tips, and resources for your family!