

FALL 2025

SEBRING LOCAL SCHOOLS

Trojan Talk

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Superintendent



A Warm Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

I am delighted to welcome everyone back for the start of the 2025-2026 school year! We are already off to a great start, and the enthusiasm across the district has motivated students and staff alike.

Opening day was particularly memorable, featuring a surprise visit from our beloved mascot, Troy the Trojan, who greeted students and staff with high-fives and school spirit. Additionally, we were thrilled to partner with the Sunshine Bus, which provided students with free comfort items to help them settle into their classrooms. Our commitment to making every student feel valued and prepared is what drives us, and this small gesture of support was a wonderful way to begin the year.

Our district continues to achieve high marks, and I am incredibly proud to share the results of our most recent Report Card. Overall, we received a strong 3.5 stars, with notable achievement in several key areas. We were awarded a full 5 stars in both Early Literacy and College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness—a true testament to the hard work of our educators and students. In fact, Sebring ranks an outstanding 5th in the entire state for College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness, highlighting the effectiveness of our programs in preparing students for their futures. We are determined to maintain this momentum and continue our pursuit of academic excellence in all subjects.

The start of the year also brings new energy to our district with the addition of several new staff members. We are happy to have them on board, and they are already making a significant impact in their respective roles.

Beyond the classroom, our students have been showcasing their talent. In August, our band and cheerleaders delivered outstanding performances at the Canfield Fair, representing our district with pride. Furthermore, our athletics are off to a great start this fall, with our teams demonstrating dedication and sportsmanship.

We've already set a high standard for the year, which was reinforced by a recent presentation by national speaker, Alex Sheen, founder of the nonprofit *Because I Said I Would*. His message about the importance of integrity, personal accountability, and keeping promises resonated deeply with our entire community and serves as a wonderful guiding principle for the year ahead. With strong academic foundations, spirited student performances, and committed staff, I am looking forward to everything we will accomplish together. Thank you for your continued support as we work to make the 2025-2026 school year our best one yet.

Go Trojans!
Toni Viscounte, Superintendent

The 4th Annual “Literacy Under the Lights” Draws Record Number Attendance

Sebring Local Schools held its annual “Literacy Under the Lights” community event to spotlight their “Readers are Leaders” initiative on Saturday, September 27. The event drew a record crowd for the event with nearly 400 students, parents, and community members in attendance.



The event began with a “Kick-Off” Tunnel to Literacy (shown above) formed by the Sebring Trojan Marching Band, cheerleaders, and students, meant to mimic a Friday night football game. Attendees read books under the stadium lights and participated in thirteen educational activity stations around the field led by Sebring High School students, athletic teams, student organizations, community partners, and staff. The Sebring branch of the Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County was stationed on site with their Pop-Up Library Van, and Booker the Bear mascot was also in attendance. The band and cheerleaders performed during an intermission as well.

The STEM-Playbook station was a new addition to the annual event and was a fan-favorite. The station harnessed the energy of sports and active learning to engage students. Sports-infused learning, STEM exploration, hands-on experimentation, and real-world career connections were all components of this interactive station.

Each year “Literacy Under the Lights” aims to engage students with reading in dynamic ways.

“We want to implant a love of reading in our students, which is why we incorporate our entire district and community in the event. If students can be surrounded by a community that



embraces reading, they can understand how important and fun it can be,” explained Sebring Family Engagement Coordinator, Jill Dennis.

Attendees brought books for a book swap or provided a new book in the book bin to be distributed to students in the district. All students received a free book, with two students taking home their own private reading nook.



This family engagement event is made possible through the support of its partners, including Sebring Public Library, STEM Playbook, The Josie & Carl Scarpitti Foundation, Tim Ramsayer, P.I.E., and the Trojan Band Boosters, volunteers, student athletes, student organizations, Sebring staff, and community members.

“We think of this event as a kind of legacy event at Sebring. It grows every year, and that growth wouldn’t be possible without the incredible support of our community, staff, and families,” says Dennis. The event was free and open to the public.

We’re Proud of Our 3.5 Star Overall Rating! ★★★★★

★

Improved by 1 star since last year’s report card

★★★★★

Early Literacy: Significantly exceeds state standards in early literacy (K-3)

★★★★★

College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness: Significantly exceeds state standards

★★★★★

Graduation Rate: Exceeds State Standards

2025-26 DISTRICT CALENDAR

2025-2026 DISTRICT CALENDAR OPTION #1					2025							2026								
					Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
176 Student Days - Yellow					July			1	2	3	4	5	January				1	2	3	
2 PT Conference Comp - Blue						6	7	8	9	10	11	12		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3 Staff - Pink						13	14	15	16	17	18	19		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3 Waiver - Green						20	21	22	23	24	25	26		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2025						27	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
August					August					1	2	February								
19 Optional NEOEA Day						3	4	5	6	7	8		9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20 Convocation Day						10	11	12	13	14	15		16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
21 First Day Classes						17	18	19	20	21	22		23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
September						24	25	26	27	28	29		30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1 Labor Day - No School					September							March								
October						7	8	9	10	11	12		13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 Conference Night						14	15	16	17	18	19		20	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10 NEOEA						21	22	23	24	25	26		27	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
13 Conf. Comp Day- No School						28	29	30						22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24 End 1 st Grade Period (44 days)					October		1	2	3	4	5	6	April							
November						7	8	9	10	11	12	13		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 In-Service Day - Staff Only						14	15	16	17	18	19	20		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
26-28 Thanksgiving Break						21	22	23	24	25	26	27		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
December						28	29	30						26	27	28	29	30		
19 Last Day Classes					November								May					1	2	
2026						5	6	7	8	9	10	11		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January						12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5 Classes Resume						19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
15 End 2 nd Grade Period (45 days)						26	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
16 Staff Records day-No Students					December				1	2	3	4	June				1	2	3	4
19 MLK Day - No School						5	6	7	8	9	10	11		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
February						12	13	14	15	16	17	18		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12 Conference Night						19	20	21	22	23	24	25		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
13 Conf. Comp Day - No School						26	27	28	29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30		
16 Presidents' Day - No School					January								February							
March						2	3	4	5	6	7	8		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2 In-Service Day- Staff Only						9	10	11	12	13	14	15		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20 End 3 rd Grade Period (41 days)						16	17	18	19	20	21	22		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
April						23	24	25	26	27	28	29		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
3 Good Friday - No School					February								March							
6 Spring Break						5	6	7	8	9	10	11		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
May						12	13	14	15	16	17	18		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
25 Memorial Day						19	20	21	22	23	24	25		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28 End 4 th Grade Period (46 days)						26	27	28	29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30		
28 End Semester/End Year					March								April							
29 Last Day Classes						2	3	4	5	6	7	8		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
29 Staff Records Day						9	10	11	12	13	14	15		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
31 Graduation						16	17	18	19	20	21	22		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
						23	24	25	26	27	28	29		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Waiver Conf Stud Teach					April								May							
Aug 7 8						5	6	7	8	9	10	11		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sept 21 21						12	13	14	15	16	17	18		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Oct 1 21 23						19	20	21	22	23	24	25		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Nov 1 16 17						26	27	28	29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30		
Dec 15 15					May								June							
Jan 18 19						2	3	4	5	6	7	8		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Feb 1 18 19						9	10	11	12	13	14	15		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mar 1 21 22						16	17	18	19	20	21	22		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Apr 20 20						23	24	25	26	27	28	29		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
May 19 20					June								July							
						7	8	9	10	11	12	13		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						14	15	16	17	18	19	20		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						21	22	23	24	25	26	27		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
						28	29	30	31					28	29	30				
If necessary, make-up days will be at the discretion of the Board of Education.																				

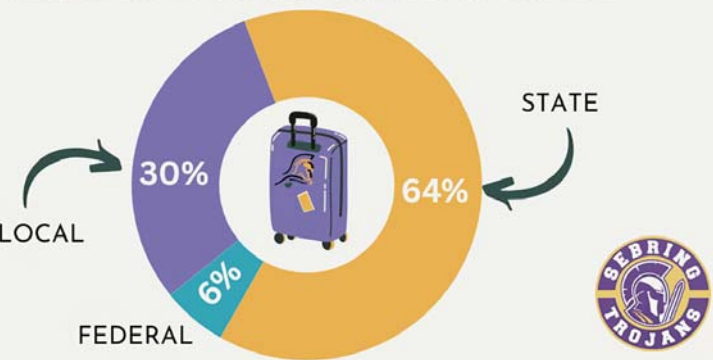
Sebring Local Schools Board of Education



Sebring Local Schools Board of Education: (front, from left to right) Board President Melinda Vecchio and Vice President JoAnn Jones; (in back, left to right) Debra Green, Scott Latham, and Tammy Eckert.

UNPACKING FUNDING

WHERE DOES OUR SCHOOL FUNDING COME FROM?



Re-imagine Sebring: Community Vision and Action Underway

NEWS FROM VILLAGE COUNCIL:

- Sebring has started the water meter replacement project. This is over a \$1 million investment into our infrastructure. Residential meter replacement will start in November.
- Trick or Treat will be on Halloween from 5- 6:30 pm followed with a party at fire station #1.
- A parcel survey of properties throughout the village will take place this fall. This will provide the village with an accurate inventory of vacant lots, vacant structures and occupied structures. Surveyors will have identification.
- Sebring wrapped up its pilot farmers markets with the best turnout on a week night and Sunday. When a day is chosen, the farmers market will continue next summer. Thank you to the Ohio Dept. of Health and the Mahoning County Health District for the grant assistance to Sebring.
- Mark your calendar for Small Business Saturday, November 29th to do your Christmas shopping locally.
- December 7th at 9:00 am will be the annual laying of the wreaths at Grandview Cemetery. Public and volunteers are welcome to this event to honor Veterans' graves. Sponsored by several local organizations.

RE-IMAGINE SEBRING NEWS:

Popular Networking Opportunity Returns
Sebring Area Business Leaders are meeting again, and those interested are invited to join their peers. Every quarter, a local business hosts a breakfast hour and is given the spotlight to showcase themselves to other local businesses and community leaders. If you or someone you know is interested in attending or hosting the next meeting, or want to learn more, please email Jim Williams at sebringbiz@gmail.com. The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2026.

Visioning and Strategic Planning
Re-Imagine Sebring has completed the visioning and strategic planning for the Village. Four priority areas were identified:

RE-IMAGINE SEBRING
STRATEGIC ROADMAP TO 2030

PATHWAYS TO HOUSING

- Improve Rental Quality
- Promote Homeownership
- Enhance Property Conditions

REIMAGINING MAIN STREET

- Public Gathering Spaces
- Community Events
- Business Growth
- Building Revitalization

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

- Business Collaboration
- Access to Resources
- Branding & Storytelling

THRIVING TOGETHER

- Outdoor Infrastructure
- Wellness Programs
- Healthy Food Access
- Community Partnerships
- Sustainable Funding

✓ **COMMUNITY VISION** A united, resilient Sebring where everyone thrives.

NEXT STEP: Implementation 2025-2030

Led by: Re-Imagine Sebring
Supported by Village Council



Discover Great Deals at The Concern!

Looking for affordable clothing while supporting a great cause? Stop by The Concern, a charming local thrift shop that has something for everyone. Kids' clothes are just \$1.00, and adult clothing is only \$2.00... perfect for families on a budget!

The Concern isn't just about bargains. As a non-profit organization, it also runs a food pantry serving the Sebring West Branch School District, helping local families in need. Every purchase you make helps support their important mission. Swing by, find a deal, and make a difference in the community!

Location & Hours: 125 W Ohio Ave.
Monday-Saturday from 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

Beatrice L. Miller Elementary School News

A Message from Principal Hanley

The hallways are buzzing, backpacks are full, and the smiles are everywhere—yes, the 2025-2026 school year is off to a fantastic start here at B.L. Miller Elementary!

From the moment our students stepped off the buses and through our doors, the energy has been nothing short of amazing. Teachers, staff, and families came together to make sure the first days back were welcoming, smooth, and full of excitement. Whether it was kindergarteners finding their cubbies or third graders diving into insect science experiments, every classroom has been filled with laughter, learning, and a strong sense of community.

This is my fourth year entering the position as principal at B.L. Miller and I feel that we are in our groove. We had a great start to the school year; many of our students know our expectations and we are setting goals to stretch our students even further academically and socially this year. We are focused on the whole child. A student's ability to learn to grow is impacted by many factors, and at BL, we are aiming to meet the needs of the whole child.

In just a few short weeks, we've already celebrated small victories: students making new friends, learning new routines, and embracing the joy of discovery. Our back-to-school events like the *Back to School Bash*, *Meet The Teacher Night*, and *Grandparents' Lunch*, showed how the families and staff work together to build the strong relationships that help our students thrive.

This year, our focus is not only on academic excellence but also on growing kindness, curiosity, and confidence. With the support of our incredible teachers and the enthusiasm of our students, there's no limit to what we'll achieve.

Here's to a school year full of laughter, learning, and lots of proud moments. We are full of pride for our school and our community! Go Trojans!

- Principal Nichole Hanley



A Visit from the Fire Department

This October, students at B.L. Miller Elementary School received an exciting and educational visit from the town's local fire department. Sebring Firefighters spent the morning teaching students the importance of fire safety and what to do in case of an emergency.

The visit was part of National Fire Prevention Week, a campaign aimed at educating communities about fire hazards and safety practices. Dressed in full gear, the firefighters spoke to students about how to recognize fire risks, the importance of smoke detectors, and how to create a family escape plan. Wide-eyed students got a close-up look at hoses, tools, and even heard the loud blast of the siren.

"Fire safety is something everyone should learn, especially children," said Lieutenant Cody Dennis. "Teaching them at a young age can help prevent dangerous situations in the future."

The fire department hopes the event encourages families to talk more about fire safety at home and regularly check their smoke alarms.

B.L. Miller Elementary has this presentation as an annual event, bringing firefighters and students together to build safer homes and stronger community connections.

Grandparents' Lunch 2025 A TRADITION CONTINUES

A beloved B.L. Miller tradition returned this fall for our Grandparents' Lunch. Students happily welcomed their grandparents and loved ones to experience lunch in our cafeteria. It was great to see so many of our Trojan community members at our school for one of our favorite days of the year! This year we had over 200 grandparents join in for our special day. Students make coloring pages and lists for their grandparents listing their favorite things about them. The amazing cafeteria staff made over 400 meals of grilled chicken, roasted red potatoes, green beans, a dinner roll with butter, and a large chocolate chip cookie for dessert.



Beatrice L. Miller Elementary School News

Little Trojan Cheer Night

Trojan fans were treated to an extra special performance from the cheerleaders during September's "Little Trojan Cheer Night". Cheerleaders from kindergarten through 12th grade, packed the sidelines for a special cheer night. There were 81 cheerleaders who participated in the Trojan Cheer tradition. Our tiniest cheerleaders had two nights of practice to prepare for their big game. They learned cheers and the beginner basics of stunting. Coach Cassy Wynn and the McKinley Cheerleaders created this special night and clinic for our tiniest Trojans!



Students Make a Splash with "Summer Workbook Challenge"



Sixty B.L. students were rewarded with a trip to the Alliance YMCA pool for completing the "Summer Workbook Challenge". Each student completed a ten-week workbook to avoid the "Summer slide". Students' workbooks were filled with reading and math to keep their brains fresh all Summer! Mrs. Hanley rewarded them with a fun trip to miss an afternoon of school and go swimming at the YMCA of Alliance! They had a swim-tastic time! We are proud of our hard-working Trojans!

Success After 6 Program Continues to Inspire Learning and Growth



Over the past three years, the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and Sebring Local Schools have partnered to provide the Success After 6 – After Hours School Program at B.L. Miller. Now serving students in grades 1-5, the program focuses on fostering learning, growth, and wrap-around support for families to help break down barriers to student success.

Through the Ohio Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, this federally funded program offers high-quality after-school learning opportunities and activities designed to help every child thrive.

"Through this programming, we look forward to continuing to focus on the whole child—providing wrap-around services that many of our families need and bridging the gap between academics and enrichment," said Jill Dennis, Family Engagement Coordinator for Sebring Local Schools. "Students receive tutoring and teacher instruction, time to complete schoolwork, and hands-on experiences with STEM, STEAM, and workforce development," continued Dennis.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Students have benefited from strong partnerships with organizations such as:

- OH WOW! The Roger and Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science and Technology
- The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County – Sebring Branch
- The Ohio State University Extension, Mahoning County 4-H
- PBS Western Reserve – Ohio Learns 360
- STEM Playbook

These partners provide a wide range of experiences from STEM and literacy enrichment to hands-on creative learning and social-emotional development.

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

This summer, 38-50 students participated in the Success After 6 Summer Learning Program, which mirrored the after-school model by emphasizing accelerated learning, literacy, workforce readiness, and wellness.

LOOKING AHEAD

On October 6, 2025, we proudly began our fourth year of Success After 6 at B.L. Miller Elementary! Last year, students received vital support in academics, enrichment, and social-emotional learning. This year, we remain committed to those same goals while expanding opportunities through new enrichment partners.

We are especially excited to welcome the STEM Playbook Team, who will lead an 18-week enrichment series featuring sports-infused learning, hands-on experimentation, and real-world career connections.

McKinley Jr/Sr. High School News

A Message from Principal Clark

Trojan Pride on the Rise – Celebrating Our Successes Together!

As we kick off another exciting school year at McKinley, I'm filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible momentum we're building together. Our students are thriving, our staff is energized, and our community is more united than ever in supporting the success of every Trojan.

We started the school year with an incredible two days of team building, academic focused, and fun activities that were led by a team of staff and senior class leaders. Thank you to all involved in bringing back a themed orientation that made every student feel welcomed and connected.

TROJAN PRIDE & PARTICIPATION

A couple of years ago we celebrated in this space that 44% of our students participated in a fall sport or activities. This year, I am thrilled to report on our ever-increasing school spirit as 64% of our students are involved in extracurricular activities – from athletics to the marching band, this is simply unique to being here. This high level of participation fuels our school spirit, builds lifelong skills, and creates a sense of belonging that can be felt throughout our halls. Trojan Pride! is more than a slogan... IT IS who we are.

STRONG IMPROVEMENT IN STATE REPORT CARD RESULTS

We are excited to share that our building has made strong across the board improvements in three out of the five rated areas on the statewide school report card. Improvements were made in Achievement (test scores), Gap Closure (sub group test improvement), and Graduation Rate. Most notably, we earned a 5-star rating in Ohio's brand new rating component – College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness – a clear reflection of our commitment to preparing students for success after high school. In fact, we ranked 5th out of 607 schools in the entire state.

100% GRADUATION RATE TWO YEARS IN A ROW

This achievement cannot be overstated: for the past two consecutive years, 100% of our seniors have graduated. This is a testament to the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the strong partnerships we have with our families and community. Every student. Every diploma. Every future.

FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH FOR ALL STUDENTS

Thanks to district support and the federal lunch program, all students continue to have access to free breakfast and lunch every day. We know that well-nourished students are better prepared to learn, and we are proud to remove this barrier to success.

WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO SUPPORT EVERY STUDENT

We believe that supporting the whole child is essential. Our wraparound services include academic tutoring, mental health counseling with Alta, a school-based health partnership with Akron Children's Hospital, and additional family support. If your child needs extra help or guidance – we are here, ready to support.

We are proud of how far we've come, but even more excited about where we're headed! Thank you for being a vital part of our Trojan community. Let's keep lifting each other up and proving to the world what's possible when we work together.

GO Trojans!
- Principal Brian Clark

Champions Day

Students with special abilities were celebrated at "Champions Day" at Canfield High School in September. The annual event is a day of athletic events and fellowship. Students from area school districts participated in a "Friday Night Lights Experience" with fall sports, band, and cheerleading. Our Sebring Trojans had a blast with the nearly 200 other students at the event!



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MCKINLEY
SETS ANOTHER
SCHOOL RECORD

McKinley Ranks
5 out of 607 schools in Ohio
for preparing students for
their futures

**College, Career, Workforce,
Military Readiness**

McKinley Jr/Sr. High School News



2025 Fall Homecoming Court

Sebring celebrated a wonderful Homecoming weekend with the game occurring on Friday, October 3rd and the dance on Saturday, October 4th. Gage Mates was crowned Homecoming King and Alayna Braham was crowned Queen (pictured left). Congratulations to this year's Fall Homecoming Court shown above.

Front Row from left to right: Freshman Kenna Coen, Sophomore Amarianna Choice, Junior Alexis Stillion, Senior Davianna Bowyer, Senior Raegan Wynn, and Senior Alayna Braham

Back Row from left to right: Freshman Brady Wynn, Sophomore Aiden Hurban, Junior Tyler Culp, Senior Aidan Seevers, Senior Gage Mates, Senior Devonte Buchanan

McKinley Kicks Off 2025 School Year with a Two-Day Experience

Sebring's McKinley Jr./Sr. High School students didn't have a typical first day of school on Thursday, August 21. Roll calls, seating charts, and locker assignments were replaced with conversation bingo, snacks and a movie, and break-out group activities and games.

The concept of the "Back to School" experience flips the script on the traditional "first day of school". McKinley Principal, Brian Clark, explained, "We want to truly welcome students back to school. In doing so, our deeply invested staff created an experience for them to ease back into the school routine with enrichment activities that will open the lines of communication with their peers and with our teachers. Our priority is to engage our students from day one of the school year in a way that is meaningful to them and starts our year off on a positive note."

This year's theme was "Own Your Glitch-Make it Gold"; a nod to the movie "Wreck It Ralph" which students watched on day one of the event. The movie's themes of friendship, overcoming adversity, being a positive influence, self-reflection, and teamwork anchored the two-day event.

Other enrichment activities included reflection discussions, and academic and team building games such as wheel barrel and sack races, STEM building challenges and academic races.

The two-day experience concluded on Friday, August 22 with a visit from The Sunshine Bus, an "Escape Room" activity, and focused presentations on health and wellness.





A Visit from The Sunshine Bus

Our Trojans' start to the school year was made a little brighter with a visit from The Sunshine Bus. The Brightside Project is a local non-profit organization that has outfitted a bus with free comfort items for kids. The "Kids-Only" bus made a stop at McKinley and B.L. Miller the first week of school. Every student in the district was able to fill a bag with snacks, drinks, a stuffed animal, a book, and some personal care products of their choosing to begin the school year.



The Carl and Josie Scarpitti Foundation Donates a Pair of Shoes to Every District Student

Sebring students were outfitted with brand new running shoes this fall thanks to a generous donation of The Carl and Josie Scarpitti Foundation. The foundation seeks to provide assistance to children and young adults through education and sports. Sebring students were the recipients of the foundation's generosity. Each student in the entire district was fitted for a new pair of running shoes at the district in September. The shoes were delivered to excited students in October.

"Our district is extremely fortunate to have such a gift. Carl Scarpitti's legacy in Sebring is one of exceptional kindness and incredible philanthropic efforts. Our kids are privileged to be the beneficiaries of that legacy," expressed Sebring Superintendent, Toni Viscounte.

The foundation's gift to Sebring students is to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Carl Scarpitti's passing. The Carl and Josie Scarpitti Foundation was established by the Scarpitti family, in memory of its namesake and longtime owner of "Carl's Shu Renewery" in downtown Sebring.

"Our family thought donating shoes to students would be a perfect way to celebrate our father's legacy since he was a shoe repairman who loved children. During his working years, and well after he retired, kids in town would stop by the shoe shop or our house and he would fix their shoes, repair baseball gloves, and even sharpen ice skates all for free. We still hear stories from people around town who remember our dad for these small acts of kindness," commented David Scarpitti, son of the foundation's namesake. Second Sole of Cleveland, Ohio was the shoe vendor for the event.



Sebring Honors WWII Vet with Honorary Diploma

Superintendent Viscounte had the distinct honor of presenting a local WWII veteran an honorary Sebring diploma in October. Mr. Donald Murphy left Sebring Local Schools on November 30, 1934, to join the Merchant Marines, serving as a seaman for the Isthmian Steamship Company in New York City. His dedication to his country continued as he later transferred to the United States Army, where he served honorably as a military policeman. After years of service, he was honorably discharged in February of 1947, having contributed faithfully to both the maritime and military efforts during a pivotal time in our nation's history.

Mr. Donald R. Murphy received his honorary high school diploma as his beloved family looked on at Copeland Oaks. Mrs. Viscounte remarked, "The diploma stands as a lasting symbol of his sacrifice, courage, and commitment to our country. We thank Mr. Murphy for his service, for the freedoms we enjoy today, and for the example he continues to set for generations to come."



New Marching Band Uniforms!

The marching band season is off to an exciting and energetic start! After weeks of hard work during summer rehearsals, the band made a strong first impression at their debut performance this fall. With crisp formations, powerful music, and unified energy, the band wowed audiences and set a high bar for the rest of the season.

This year's Trojan Marching Band is the largest in recent years with a grand total of 44 members! To accommodate the growth, our band has new uniforms this year. Under the direction of YSU graduate Mr. Wyatt Engstrom, the band is thriving and sounding great!



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Back to School Bash Makes a Splash

The Sebring Local School District welcomed students in Pre-K through 12th grade along with their families for a fun and memorable Back to School Bash in August. We had over 250 people in attendance. Here is a snapshot of the event and we hope to see everyone next year!

ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS:

- Free food & drinks provided by P.I.E.
- Free swimming for our families at the Sebring Pool
- Opportunities to visit with teachers, staff, volunteers, and community members
- Backpacks given to students in K-6th grade
- Donated school supplies
- Coin dive – a long-standing tradition students loved
- Reconnecting with familiar faces and welcoming many new families to the district

SUPPORT & RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT:

- YWCA Programs
- ALTA Behavioral Healthcare
- Akron Children's Hospital/school healthcare

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN THE EVENT INCLUDED:

- P.I.E. (Partners in Education) (Food)
- United Way – Women United Grant (School supplies)
- Sebring Pool
- Sebring Lutheran Church
- Thrivent Action Team (event/school supplies)
- American Legion Post #76 – Youth Foundation (school supplies)
- Danny's Cans (school supplies)
- The Sebring Fire Dept. – Sebring Fire Association (backpacks)



United Way and Community Partners Expand Support for Sebring Students



Caroline and David Jones generously committed to funding Sebring's Care Closets for the 2025-2026 school year, ensuring consistent access to essential resources for both B.L. Miller Elementary and McKinley Jr./Sr. High School students.

Each building currently maintains a Trojan Care Closet, which provides clothing, hygiene products, for students and families in need. This new funding will allow the district to sustain and expand those supports, ensuring that resources remain available and that emerging needs can be addressed quickly.

The vision behind the Care Closets is simple yet powerful. Meeting basic needs quickly allows students to focus on their education without unnecessary distractions. Care Closets provide immediate access to essentials, helping students stay focused on learning and growth. Sebring Local Schools will join 26 other schools in the Mahoning Valley that currently have United Way Care Closets.

As part of the expansion, plans for additional shelving and mobile carts are currently underway to improve organization and accessibility. The initial rollout of the enhanced Care Closets is expected to take place by the end of fall. Thank you very much United Way and Caroline & David Jones!

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Kaci Lapp, PCC
Mental Health Therapist

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- Trauma
- Stress-related disorders
- Grief
- Relationship concerns
- Personality disorders

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TROJAN ATHLETICS & ARTS



Fall athletics are off to a great start



Cross Country: Trio Runs Well

2025 Trojan Cross Country runners Daniel Defferding (SR) and Michael Tewksbury (11) represented our school tremendously well all season long. Under the direction of interim coach Jacob Florida. Both Defferding and Tewksbury improved greatly over the course of the season, recording personal records in the majority of their meets. The season concluded on October 18, at Glenoak, where the boys competed in the OHSA District Meet. Jordan Mekker-Radford was the lone Junior High runner this fall and Jordan showed great promise for the future.

Golf: Quintet Finishes Season

Two ladies and three young men teed it up this fall representing our school during the 2025 golf season: Allison Didion and Serenity Gosnell, along with Conner Helmick, Micheal Parks and Rick Zheng. With no seniors on the team, Coach Shannon Hutchison led the five-person squad once again, and did outstanding work in his continuing efforts to grow the program.

Football: Turning the Tide

This is the Trojan's football team's third season playing eight-man football in the Northern-8 conference, and the transition has afforded the team an opportunity to win the most games in the last ten seasons. Seniors Brandon Bahler, Noah Betz, Issac Brooks, Gage Mates and Coltin McGrew played their final football game in October and we wish them the best!

Our football program also experienced growth this fall! Football fans in Sebring were excited about the addition of a Junior High program this fall. It has been quite some time since the school had a Junior High football team, as twelve players suited up for the 2025 season. Special thanks to Coaches Nathan Caughtman and Josh Hines for leading our young men and growing our program.



Volleyball: Continuing to Build

Second year Varsity Volleyball Coach Haley Pelini continued to build the Trojan program this fall. With 20 girls on the roster, the girls played a full varsity and junior varsity schedule. The young lady volleyballers played hard all season and often had three freshmen and two sophomores seeing court time. Seniors Kiera Berger, Davianna Bowyer, Kristal Giron and Kelly Schenk helped lead the team this fall.



Trojans at The Canfield Fair

Our Trojans did a wonderful job representing our community at The Canfield Fair in August. Our cheerleaders and band performed at the Grandstands. Meanwhile, our Trojan artists contributed to an impressive art display in the Education Building.



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

Sebring Students Explore Career Pathways at the Skilled Trades Expo

Sebring Local Schools firmly believes in providing career pathway exploration opportunities to students; it is why Sebring Local Schools recently scored 5/5 stars for College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness on the State Report Card. Sebring students visited the Skilled Trades Expo for some experiential learning in September. Students were able to interact with professionals in a variety of skilled trades as Sebring continues its mission to prepare the Trojans for success after graduation!



Sebring's Gifted Identification Procedure

In accordance with House Bill 282, gifted and talented identification procedures are in place in the Sebring Local Schools for kindergarten through grade 12. Students may be identified as gifted in one or more of the following categories using the State of Ohio criteria:

- Superior cognitive
- Specific academic (reading, math, science, and/or social studies)
- Creative thinking
- Visual/performing arts (art, instrumental and vocal music, dance, and drama)

The Ohio Department of Education has provided districts a list of assessments that must be used for gifted identification. State test scores may not be used to identify students.

Students will be screened for superior cognitive ability in the 2nd and 5th grades using InView. To qualify for identification in superior cognitive, students need to achieve a student ability index (SAI) that is two standard deviations above the mean (minus the standard of error).

Students will be academically screened for possible reading and math identification in kindergarten through the 6th grade using iReady. Students qualify for a specific academic area when they achieve a score in or above the 95th percentile. In all other gifted identification categories, students will be assessed on an as-needed basis to determine gifted identification.

Creative thinking gifted identification requires an SAI of a 112. In addition, students must meet a qualifying checklist score to meet identification qualifications.

Visual and performing arts referrals can be made by the district's arts teachers, but can also be made by parents or students as well. These assessments take place on a Saturday at an out-of-district location in the

fall and spring. To qualify as gifted in one of the visual and performing arts, students must meet a qualifying checklist score and provide an audition or display of work for assessment. The criteria for identification in art, dance, drama, and music vary by discipline.

A student may be individually referred for testing at any time by a teacher, parent, peer, or self-request. Individual tests are scheduled at a minimum of twice a year, in the fall and spring. Contact Toni Viscounte, Superintendent / Gifted Coordinator, at 330-938-6165, or email at tviscounte@sebring.k12.oh.us to make a referral for gifted identification.



The Board of Education for Sebring Local Schools recognizes that the educational growth of children varies; therefore procedures are in place for academic acceleration. This includes early entrance to kindergarten, whole grade acceleration, subject acceleration, and early graduation.

The district ensures equal opportunity for all district students identified as gifted and talented to receive gifted services offered by the district when available. Selection of students will be based upon the criteria for gifted identification as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education's Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students. Depending on the services available, students may be required to have more than one area of identification in order to be served. Students identified and

currently receiving services will not need to be re-identified and will remain in the program as long as the district chooses to provide services to students.

To view the district's Identification and service plan, please visit www.sebring.k12.oh.us, select district, then gifted education. The link for the plan is on the right, under documents.

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