ALEXANDER LOCAL SCHOOLS

DISTRICT UPDATE

FALL 2026



Annah Korpi and Lisa Wigal, co-chairs
Alexander Inclusive Playground Committee

Inclusive Playground Project: COMPLETE!

After years of planning, dreaming, fundraising, and an incredible amount of community support, we are excited to announce that all three areas of the Alexander Inclusive Playground Project are now complete!

This project began with a simple but powerful belief that every child deserves a place to play, explore, and belong. What started as an idea grew into a community-wide effort involving families, staff, businesses, organizations, donors, and community members who believed our students deserved something special.

On September 20, our school and community came together to celebrate the completion of the project and recognize the many people who helped make this dream a reality. It was a wonderful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together for children.

A very special thank you goes to Annah Korpi and Lisa Wigal, co-chairs of the Alexander Inclusive Playground Committee, whose vision, determination, and countless hours helped turn this idea into reality. We are also incredibly grateful to the entire committee for their time, planning, fundraising, and unwavering commitment to this project.

Thank you to every donor, business, organization, family, volunteer, and community member who contributed money, time, resources, encouragement, or helped spread the word. Every contribution played a part in bringing this vision to life.



Zach Crabtree Excavating and Parsons Land Clearing & Excavating are recognized for generously donating their time, resources, and expertise through all three phases of the project.



These playgrounds are more than new equipment. They represent inclusion, opportunity, and community and the belief that every child deserves a place to play and belong. Most of all, they reflect a community that believed our kids deserved this and then did something about it.

We are so proud to officially call the Alexander Inclusive Playground Project complete. Thank you, Alexander community, for believing in our kids and helping us build something that will make a difference for generations of Spartans!

A Message from: Mr. Hampton, Superintendent

Hello Alexander!

I am thrilled to welcome everyone back to the building for another outstanding school year. Thanks to your support and patience, our opening week went exceptionally well. While the start of the school year can often feel chaotic, this year was smoother than ever. I attribute this success directly to the continuity of our district leadership. Having our leaders remain in their roles brings vital consistency to an otherwise hectic time.

We did change things with our traffic patterns and we appreciate your help making our drop off and pick up safer. Patience in these moments is really important to creating a safe environment for our students, staff, and parents.

We have a busy year ahead, including a big community decision in November. The Board of Education voted in May to place a 0.75% Earned Income Tax on the ballot on November 3. If you'd like to discuss our school's operations or finances, I'm always available to answer your questions. You can email me at whampton@alexanderschools.org.

Let's have a great year and enjoy our fall newsletter.

Spartans Leading the Way

AMERICAN LEGION
Buckeye Boys State

Buckeye Boys State is a leadership camp that exposes students to fundamental democratic principles in local, county and state elections and governmental functions, which prepares them for leadership roles.

Each year, Alexander has the opportunity to work with the American Legion Post 21 to send representation to Buckeye Boys State. Post 21 sponsors the students chosen to attend.



Students (from left) Ben Froehlich, Liam Medley, and Brandon Hendershott participated in the camp this summer, which took place at Miami University in Oxford, OH.

Spartan Alumni Spotlight

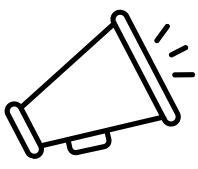
Welcome to another installment of the Alexander Alumni Spotlight. In each newsletter, we highlight a former SPARTAN who has gone on to achieve great things in their communities or profession after graduating from Alexander Local Schools.

Conner Kimbrough, a 2019 graduate of Alexander High School, has gone on to do some incredible and extraordinary things. Conner has taken a different path than most of our students after they leave high school. Using his courage and a fearless sense of adventure, he became a professional BULLFIGHTER!

Today, he travels the country fighting bulls and entertaining thousands. He was even crowned the 2024 WORLD CHAMPION!

We are all very proud of his achievements and ambition. Scan the QR code to read Conner's story and see photos of him doing his thing in the ring.





Shout Out!

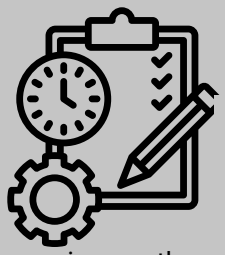


FFA members Boone Meek and Raegan West for volunteering with food service at the annual Farm Bureau Banquet

Perfect Scores on Ohio's State Tests!



Congratulations to these students for receiving perfect scores on Ohio's State Tests taken in the spring of 2026. From left: Jack Judy, 8th Grade Science; Logan Brooks, American History; Ben Hendershott, Geometry; Alex Hendershott, 7th Grade Math; Joshua Gater, 7th Grade Math; Avery Woods, 8th Grade Science and Sylvie Venoy, 6th Grade Math



Career Exploration & Work Readiness

A small group of seniors are participating in a building level pilot program allowing students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience through job placement or internship experience. These opportunities are designed to help students explore potential post-secondary career opportunities that align with individual interests, while gaining valuable work readiness skills.

This program is in its early stages, but we hope to expand opportunities in the future, as we gain more community partnerships within the local workforce. A big thank you to Career and Technical Education certified teachers Bryan Ford and Nate Schaller for their help in developing this opportunity and looking for new ways to support our students and better prepare them for life beyond graduation.

It is no secret that our district has been looking at various ways to reduce spending. Students in Nate Schaller's Wood Construction Technologies class have been identifying areas of need around campus and looking for cost effective ways to support general maintenance. Currently, they are assessing some of our storage buildings and researching the process to bid a project by comparing costs to repair existing structures versus the cost of constructing new ones.



Building Stronger Connections

At Alexander Elementary, we believe that students are most successful when schools, families, and communities work together. This year, we are focusing on strengthening our partnerships and finding more meaningful ways to engage with our families and community. We want our school to be a place where families feel welcomed, connected, and involved in the experiences that make elementary school so special.

Throughout the year, we will be creating more opportunities for families and community members to be part of our school. These events are not only opportunities to celebrate our students, but also to build relationships and create lasting memories together.

We have several exciting events coming up this fall, including:

Halloween Parade – October 30: Students will have the opportunity to show off their costumes during our annual Halloween Parade.

Veterans Day Assembly – November 10: We look forward to honoring the veterans in our families and community and teaching our students about the importance of recognizing those who have served our country.

Literacy Night – November 19: Families will be invited to join us for an evening focused on the joy of reading. We hope this will be a fun opportunity for families to learn, play, and enjoy books together.

These are just a few of the ways we hope to bring our school community together this year. We are excited about building stronger relationships with our families and community and making Alexander Elementary a place where everyone feels connected and valued.

We look forward to seeing you at these events and throughout the school year!

Bus Safety Education



At the start of every school year, all Elementary students receive important bus safety instruction from our drivers. The students practiced routine bus safety and reviewed important emergency procedures.

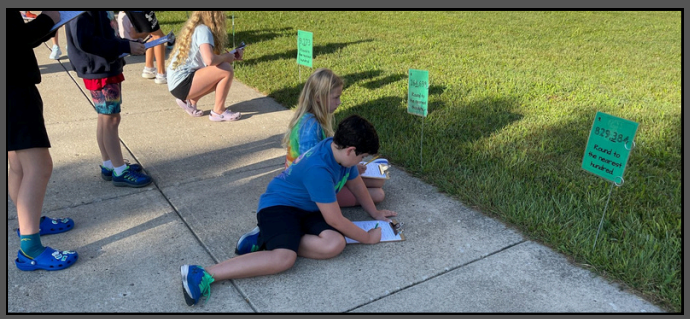




Mrs. Montgomery's class dressed up to celebrate Spartan Spirit Day!



Mr. Cullum's 4th grade math class took learning outside to practice rounding and place value.





Elementary Counselor, Ben Shultz visited first grade classrooms to read a story and do an activity with students on using their "big ears" to be active listeners. This is an area we are focusing on for our PBIS goal to improve student learning in the classroom.

Jr. High & High School Update

Welcome to a new school year!

Dear Alexander Families,

As we begin another year together, we want you to know how excited we are about the opportunities ahead for our students. Alexander is a special place, and we are incredibly fortunate to be part of a school community that cares so deeply about its students, staff, and families.

We are proud graduates of Alexander High School and have personal connections to this school and community that runs deep. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the school that helped shape us, and we are deeply committed to supporting our students, staff, and families in every way we can. Our goal is simple: to work together to make Alexander Junior High and High School the very best it can be for every student.

We believe that the best opportunities for our students come when we work together. Educating and supporting young people is a shared responsibility, and we value the partnership between our school, our families, and our community. We want to listen, collaborate, and continually look for ways to improve the experience we provide our students.

Please never hesitate to reach out to us. Whether you have a question, concern, idea, or simply want to share something you believe could make our school better, we want to hear from you! Your perspective matters, and open communication is an important part of building a strong school community.

Thank you for trusting us with your children and for the continued support you provide to Alexander Junior High and High School. We look forward to a wonderful school year filled with learning, growth, involvement, and opportunities for every student to succeed.

Abigail R. Rouse — Principal

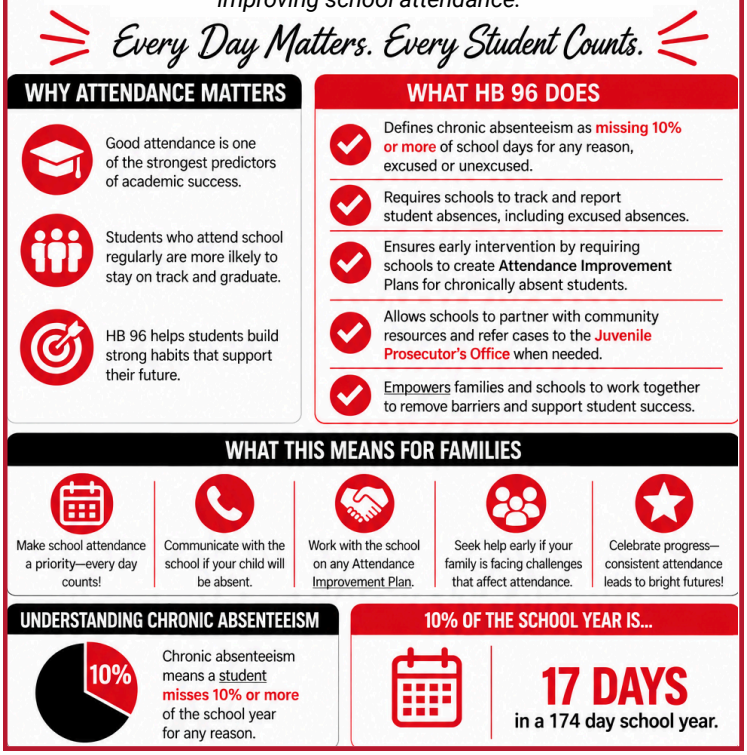
Natalie Lucas — Assistant Principal

Go Spartans!

Attendance Challenge

This year the High School and Junior High are participating in a quarterly attendance challenge. Each week the grade level with the highest attendance percentage get a victory point. The grade level in each building with the most victory points at the end of the quarter receives an incentive reward. The first quarter students are working towards winning an ice cream celebration! Promoting and supporting positive attendance patterns now will carry over into careers and education after high school.

House Bill 96, effective for the 2026-27 school year, strengthens Ohio's commitment to student success by improving school attendance.



A lot is happening around campus this fall! Here are some important dates:

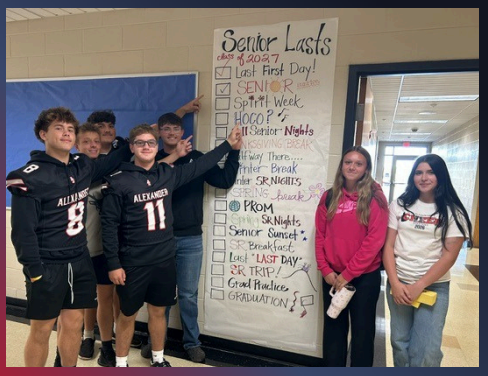
- Homecoming Spirit Week--Sept 28-Oct 2
- Homecoming Football Game--Oct 2
- Homecoming Dance--Oct 3
- End of 1st Qtr/2 Hr Early Release--Oct 16
- Jr High Wellness Day--Oct 16
- Parent/Teacher Conferences--Oct 22 & 23
- Jr High Halloween Dance--Oct 30
- Veterans Day Assembly--Nov 10
- No School--Nov 11
- Thanksgiving Break--Nov 25-30
- Blood Drive--Dec 3
- End of 2nd Qtr/2 Hr Early Release--Dec 18

Download the Alexander Schools app and sign up for notifications for the most up-to-date information

Class of 2027

Checking Off a Year of "Lasts"

This year our seniors are counting down the days until graduation by celebrating each milestone throughout the year. Though we wish time could slow down allowing us to keep this group of kids around just a little bit longer, we are having a great time watching them celebrate some of their "lasts" as students here at Alexander. So far, students have celebrated their "Last First Day" and "Senior Sunrise".







Fall Athletic Participation

The 2026 fall sports season is officially underway at Alexander Local Schools! The district is seeing incredible student turnout this year, with 237 junior high and high school athletes competing across various sports. Alexander Local Schools currently serves approximately 780 students in grades 6–12, and with that number of students participating in fall athletics, it is a significant achievement.

The strong participation numbers highlight the continued commitment of Alexander students to teamwork, competition, school pride, and personal growth. With opportunities available across six fall sports and activities, Spartans are representing Alexander both on the field and throughout the community.

Participation in athletics provides students with much more than competition. It teaches responsibility, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, leadership, and the importance of working toward a common goal. For many students, athletics also creates lasting friendships and memorable experiences that extend well beyond the playing surface.

The success of our athletics program would not be possible without the dedication of the student-athletes, coaches, families, teachers, administrators, and community members who support our student athletes throughout the year.

As the 2026 fall season gets underway, Alexander Local Schools is proud of the 237 students who have chosen to represent their school through athletics. Congratulations to all of our fall student-athletes, and best of luck to every Spartan team this season!

Visit www.alexanderathletics.org for updated schedules and other important game information.









Senior Night Schedule

Boys Soccer - Oct 8
Girls Soccer - Oct 12
Volleyball - Oct 13
Football, Cheer, Band,
Golf & Cross Country - Oct 23





THANK YOU!

Mark Porter Autogroup
and
Pizza Stop Thru
for
Student Athletic Pass Sponsorship

Thanks to their generosity, all students get free admission to every regular-season athletic event this school year!

Marching Spartans





The Marching Spartans season kicked off in mid-July with students returning to school a few days a week to begin learning their steps and music. Since then, they've performed two different halftime shows featuring the music of Bruno Mars as well as rock songs from 1976.

Visit www.alexanderbands.org for information on all the upcoming performances.

Alexander Athletic Hall of Fame

The Alexander Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony for the Class of 2026 will be held Saturday, December 12, 2026. The day's festivities will begin with a social hour at 11:30 am, followed by a luncheon at noon. Inductees, along with their designated guests and presenters, will be recognized during the luncheon.

Alexander Local Schools will celebrate the achievements, dedication and lasting impact of eight outstanding members of the Alexander community. This year's inductees are Tom Bobo, Josie (Carr) Dailey, Greg Gilders, Lou Horvath, Chace Harris, Brodie McGrath, Dave McLaughlin and Dave Snipes.

The inductees will be honored that evening during basketball festivities. Spartan fans, students, families, alumni and community members will have the opportunity to recognize the inductees and celebrate their accomplishments.

The Hall of Fame Induction provides an opportunity for the community to come together to recognize individuals whose contribution have shaped Spartan athletics and Alexander Schools. From athletes and coaches to educators, supporters, and community members, each inductee represents a unique part of Alexander's athletic tradition.

The Hall of Fame Induction is more than an awards ceremony; it is a celebration of Alexander's history and the people who have helped to make Spartan athletics something very special. The stories and successes of these eight inductees will become part of the school's legacy and serves as inspiration for current and future generations of Alexander students.

Please join us to celebrate these eight outstanding Spartans and honor their contributions to the Alexander community. If you have questions about attending, please contact Alexander Athletic Director, Nate Perez, at nperez@alexanderschools.org.

2026 Alexander Staff





In the days before the start of school, teachers and staff were hard at work creating a welcoming, safe and successful environment for every student. Those days are important for all our staff; to plan, organize, collaborate, and learn. This year, staff were welcomed back to school with an enjoyable performance from the band.

ALEXANDER FFA had a busy summer and its members continue to work hard. The FFA calendar is filled with opportunities for members to compete, grow their leadership skills, and make connections with other chapters. FFA members are looking forward to an exciting school year with local, regional and national events.

2026 Athens County Fair

Alexander students exhibited shop projects, posters, farm and garden produce, livestock and participated in other fair activities. Alexander FFA members had a very successful week at the fair.



Maddie Brookins in the show ring



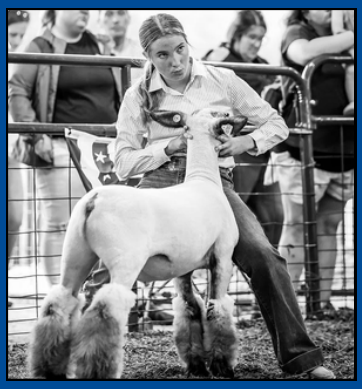
Carter Abfall selling his winning goats pictured with other FFA members



Kevin Cortez crowned King at this years fair



Cooper Day showing his beef feeder



Megan Abfall exhibiting one of her lambs



At the annual retreat, FFA leadership organized and planned this year's activities. They also enjoyed a trip to The Wilds and a stop for good food!



Soil Judging Contest



FFA members Gemma Dailey, Emily Stack & Adele Vance evaluate a soil pit at the Multi-County Soil Judging Contest in Rutland on September 10.



Harper Rice, Emma Wayne, Kylen Jones & Cooper Brooks at the soil data station.



Ayreez Miller evaluating soil drainage.

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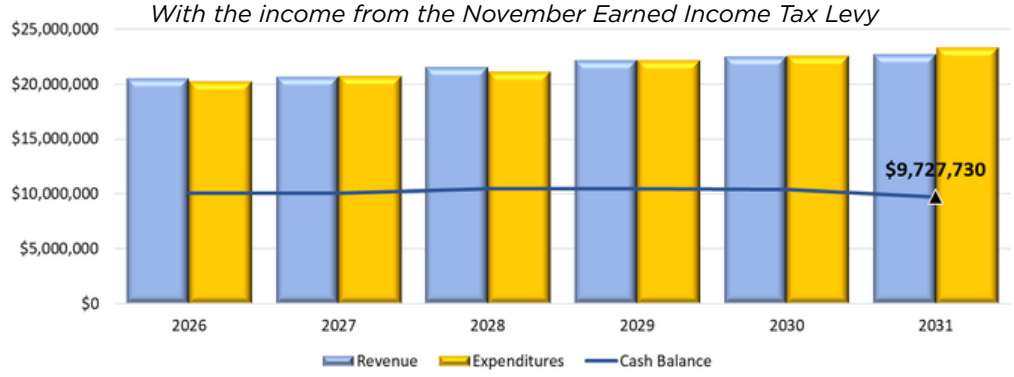
Forecast Summary

At the May 13, 2026 regular meeting, the Alexander Local Schools Board of Education passed a resolution to proceed with the proposition of an income tax. On November 3rd, there will be a 0.75% Earned Income ballot issue for Alexander Local Schools. Earned Income Tax is not a property tax. It only applies to wages and self-employment income. It does not apply to retirement income, social security or investment income. The graphs show the August 2026 Financial Forecast, as we stand now, and with an earned income tax levy.

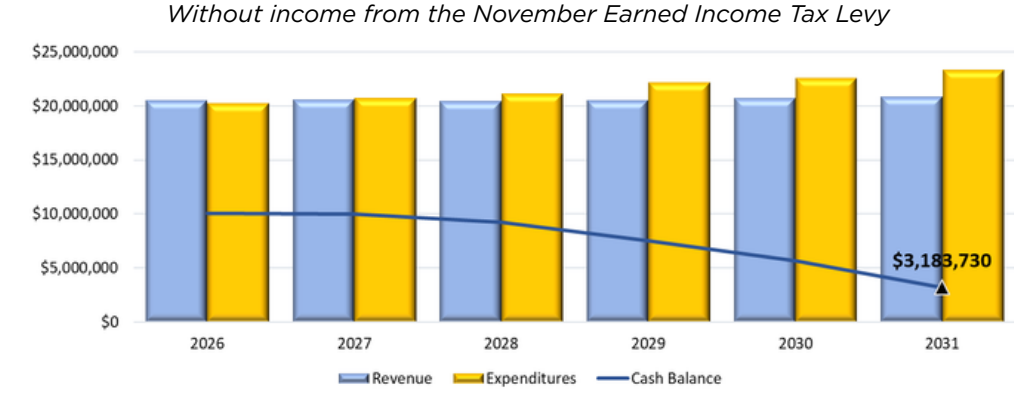
Adopted Board policy, DAB General Revenue Fund Cash Balance, states that to preserve financial effectiveness, a yearly cash balance equivalent to at least 30% of operating expenses is to be the minimum benchmark.

Projected Revenues, Expenditures and Cash Balance

With the income from the November Earned Income Tax Levy



Without income from the November Earned Income Tax Levy



Alexander Local School District embraces quality education as its highest priority and seeks to provide students with experiences that promote respect, responsibility, and the necessary skills to become productive citizens who engage in life-long learning.