

TIGER TALES

WINTER 2024



Dr. Laura Kagy,
Superintendent

Message from the Superintendent

Seneca East Local School students have been busy learning, serving our communities, performing, and having fun this winter. These cold and often-cloudy winter days have been made brighter by our thriving student body.

We kicked off the beginning of 2024 at Seneca East with our second Hall of Fame class induction. But the celebrations didn't stop there this winter. We've been lucky to have concerts and performances at the preschool, elementary, middle and high school level, including a special performance from SE Local Vocals for an audience of 7,000 at a Toledo Walleye game.

Our teachers continue to provide opportunities that give our learners a well-rounded educational experience, both inside and outside of the classroom. In this newsletter, we have an update from Tiny Tigers Preschool,

what one first-grade classroom has been up to, some amazing snapshots of what our middle schoolers and high schoolers have been learning in their science, music, and art classes, upcoming events, and more.

Looking ahead, we have some announcements regarding 2024-2025 preschool enrollment, kindergarten enrollment, and open enrollment. For our middle school and high school students, please note the testing-related schedule changes toward the end of the school year.

I am blown away by the kindness, responsibility and academic achievement students of all ages are exhibiting throughout our district. I hope everyone is staying warm this winter and enjoying watching our students grow!

Sincerely,
Dr. Laura Kagy
Superintendent

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Total Solar Eclipse on April 8

While students are home on Monday, April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon casts its shadow on the Earth as it passes between the Earth and the Sun.

On this day, people within a 124-mile-wide band in the state of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse. Areas in Ohio that are outside the path of totality will experience a partial eclipse. Attica, will observe the total solar eclipse sometime between 3:08 - 3:19 p.m.

This will be an exciting celestial event and we want our students and their families to enjoy the day safely. To safely

view the sun, you'll need to wear specialized eye protection (not sunglasses or safety goggles) designed for solar viewing. For safety guidelines, visit science.nasa.gov/eclipses/safety/.

A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. On average, one happens somewhere on the Earth only once every 1.5 years. Only 21 total solar eclipses have crossed the lower 48 states in the entire existence of the United States.

The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806.
The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2099.

**No School
Monday,
April 8**

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

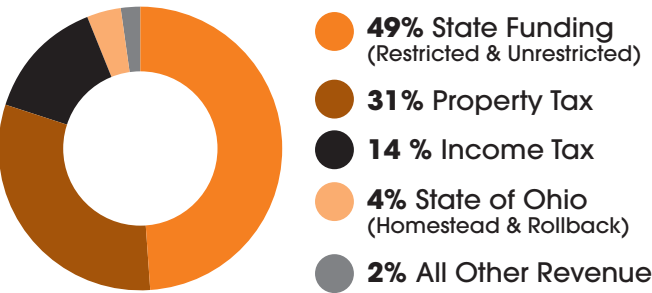


Though I've been a lifelong member of the Seneca East community, I am still in my first year as an employee of SE. As I have been researching and analyzing the revenue sources for SE, I thought it might be helpful to share an overview of how the District receives funding.

Funding schools in Ohio is complex.

At Seneca East, the majority of our funding comes from the State of Ohio through the Department of Education and Workforce's funding formula. The formula calculates the State's share of the cost of educating enrolled students. This amount is driven both by student enrollment and a variety of factors such as demographics, student needs (special education), and other programs like career-technical education, offered by the District.

The chart below represents our General Fund's revenue sources for fiscal year 2023:



Like most other School Districts, Seneca East relies on the local support of taxpayers in the form of property and income taxes to operate. In addition, specific programs receive Federal and State grants to help ensure the needs of all students are met, and we continuously look for opportunities to secure new grant funding to help provide resources to maintain a healthy fund balance.

As most property owners are aware, Seneca County just completed its sexennial reappraisal that resulted in some significant increases to property values throughout the county. Property taxes are collected and divided among the various political subdivisions within a given taxing district based on millage rates (\$1 of tax per \$1,000 of assessed value) levied on the properties within each district. Ohio's property tax system is designed to help reduce the impact of inflationary increases in property taxes by requiring the County Auditor to adjust the effective tax rates annually. Below is a comparison of the effective tax rates billed for Seneca East in tax year 2022 (collection 2023) and tax year 2023 (collection 2024), for residential and agricultural properties:

Effective Tax Rates (class 1 only)	2022	2023
General Fund (inside milage)	4.1	4.1
Current Expenses Levies	20.72	15.9
Total General Fund	24.82	20
2005 Bond (\$3,072,000)	1.45	1.45
2005 Bond (\$8,778,000)	3.35	3.35
Total Bond Retirement Fund	4.8	4.8
2005 Classroom Facilities	0.32	0.23
Total Classroom Facilities Fund	0.32	0.23
Total Milage	29.94	25.03

While we do expect some modest increased property tax collections in the coming year, tax rates have been adjusted to help minimize the cost to property owners. State law provides that a school district's general fund levies cannot fall below 20 mills; therefore, in 2024, SE will be collecting the minimum allowed by law, in the general fund, and the overall tax rate has reduced by nearly 5 mills.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the Administration of Seneca East, thank you for supporting our district!

Kyle McConnell
Treasurer

Portrait of a Learner Survey

We invite parents and community members to share their insights and help shape the future of our students' learning journey. Please take a moment to participate in our survey by scanning the QR code provided or go to meet.bfk.org/senecaeastparentscommunity. Your input is crucial in developing a comprehensive Portrait of a Seneca East Learner, guiding us to better serve our students and community. **The survey closes March 13.**



SECOND HALL OF FAME CLASS INDUCTED



Seneca East Local Schools inducted its second annual Hall of Fame class on Jan. 13. The Hall of Fame was established last year to identify and honor individuals who have exhibited high ethical standards and integrity while achieving excellence in the former Attica, Republic and Seneca Huron Schools and communities, as well as our current schools and community.

This year's class includes the following. They are students, athletes, staff, community members and contributors, and exemplify Seneca East Local Schools.

Do you know of a deserving individual or group to be considered for next year's Hall of Fame class? If so, email **Matt Schock** at mschock@se-tigers.com.



Scan the QR code to read more about the accomplishments of our 2024 Hall of Fame inductees.

MIKE BREYMAN	MATT STACKLIN
RICK & DENISE GILLET	JARROD SCHAAF
PAUL JONES	NATE MILLER
FRANK LAMOREAUX	JUSTIN RUFFING
JEFF PHILLIPS	



HIT THE JACKPOT AT SENECA EAST'S JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM

Seneca East High School's Junior-Senior "Viva Las Vegas" Prom will be held Saturday, May 4. This high-rolling night of fun will begin with a 6 p.m. Promenade, which the community is welcome to attend. Lucky students are then invited to dress to impress and ready, set, spin on the dance floor from 6:30-10 p.m.!

Ticket prices are \$20 for a single ticket and \$30 per couple. Dinner will be provided by Bone Boys from Bellevue. DJ'd by Rock N' Roll Express from Sandusky, the Junior-Senior Prom is sure to be a night to remember!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

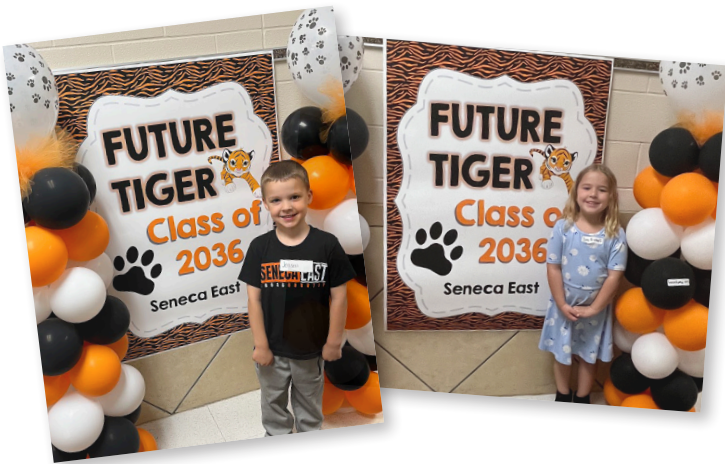
It's time to round up our newest Tigers! Kindergarten registration packets are now available at the school office and on our website at se-tigers.com.

Children must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1, 2024, to be eligible for kindergarten. Parents/guardians must turn in completed registration forms and provide the district with the following by April 10:

- Government-issued birth certificate
- Up-to-date immunization records
- Proof of residency
- Copy of custody paperwork, if applicable

A meeting will be held in the school auditorium on April 11 at 5 p.m. for parents who may still need to submit paperwork or have questions. Screenings will take place on May 16-17 in our kindergarten classrooms and will last between 45 minutes and one hour. While students are being screened by teachers, parents will review important information.

Please contact Mrs. Allgyre, elementary secretary, at 419-426-3344 or jallgyre@se-tigers.com or Mr. Powers, elementary principal, at 419-426-1854 or bpowers@se-tigers.com with questions.



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION UNDERWAY



Preschool registration for the 2024-2025 school year is underway, and spots are filling up fast! Registration runs from Feb. 26–March 31, so don't delay!

All applicants being considered for enrollment will be screened using the following criteria:

- Prospective students must be 4 years old by Aug. 1, 2024.
- Applications will be dated in the order in which they are received. Placement into Tiny Tigers Preschool will be prioritized by this date.
- Children 4 years old and residing in the Seneca East Local School District will be given first priority for preschool enrollment unless the prospective student has an older sibling already attending Seneca East Local Schools. Then, their application will be entered in the order it was received.

Prospective students from outside Seneca East Local School District are encouraged to apply and will be admitted (if space allows) in the order they are received. Once all spots are taken, applicants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if/when an opening arises.



WHERE Tigers EARN THEIR STRIPES



2024-2025 Open Enrollment

Seneca East's open enrollment application for the 2024-2025 school year is now available on the school website. Please submit completed forms by April 3, 2024.

CHILD FIND

In accordance with federal law, Seneca East Local Schools assumes responsibility for the location, identification and evaluation of all children (from birth to age 21) who may require special education and/or related services. This identification process, also called "Child Find," is coordinated by the Special Education Department of Seneca East Local Schools.

If you know or suspect that a child may have a disability, you may contact the Seneca East Local Schools Special Education Department at 419-426-3344 or contact the building principal to discuss these concerns and determine a course of action.

CALL FOR INPUT ON TITLE VI-B FUNDS

Title VI-B funds are federal allocations for the exclusive benefit of children with disabilities. Input as to how best to utilize these funds for Seneca East Local Schools is welcome. For more information or to share ideas, please call 419-426-3344 to discuss these concerns and determine a course of action.

High School Band To Play for Panel Judges at Adjudication Event

Our high school band has the opportunity to play for a panel of three judges at an adjudication event on March 8 or 9. The band will be evaluated on its performance based on select criteria and will receive a score from I (Superior) to V (Poor). If the band receives a Superior rating, they will be asked to participate in the State Adjudicated event. Stay tuned for details on the band's performance date and time. Anyone is welcome to attend and admission is free!



A Roaring Update From Tiny Tigers Preschool



Tiny Tigers Preschool has been the place to be this school year! We've been thrilled to watch our students engage in a variety of play-based activities and several different learning experiences. From social and emotional learning, to math, reading, and life experiences, it's been a joy to watch our students grow.

Tiny Tigers Preschool has been lucky enough to have Ms. Linda from the Seneca County Parks District and Mrs. Lambert from the Seneca East Public Library visit on a regular basis. Our learners have loved getting to experience nature and listen to fun and inspiring stories. As we look ahead to the spring, our Tiny Tigers are ready to keep learning, playing, and creating with their friends!

Tiny Tigers Preschool and SE Elementary Christmas Music Program



Before our holiday break, the Seneca East Tiny Tigers Preschool and Elementary School held their annual Christmas Sing-Along. The afternoon before break was filled with song and caroling as each grade level performed Christmas carols to family and friends in a packed

house! We're sending a big thank you to Seneca East Music Teacher, Mrs. Kim Spencer, for sharing her love of music with our students and families, who enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of holiday music.

ADVENTURERS, POETS, PHILANTHROPISTS, OH MY!

First graders in Mrs. Kessler's class have been busy, busy, busy!
Let's take a look at what they've been up to:



First Grade Enjoys "Blast to the Past" Field Trip at Lyme Village...

On Oct. 12, first graders traveled to Lyme Village in Bellevue to experience life in the past. They visited a school, a church, the Anne Brown cabin, Rose Tavern, Seymour House, general store, and all three floors of the Wright Mansion. Students also got to do laundry the old-fashioned way, play with old toys, dance in the ballroom and play instruments, learn about The Underground Railroad, and much more!



A Successful Community Food Drive!

When students learned about the word "charitable" while reading the book "Maddi's Fridge," they decided to put the word into action and host a food drive to benefit those in need. Donations were collected by families and taken to the Attica Community Food Pantry.

A Coffeehouse Poetry Day...

On Dec. 15, students shared their "5 Senses" poetry with their families after working hard to learn about different kinds of poetry. Mrs. Kessler wanted students and families to feel like they were at a coffeehouse, so children were seated in small arrangements, the lights were dimmed, and a relaxing fireplace crackled in the background.

Special hosts Bryleigh, Dakota and Bradly welcomed the audience to this special occasion. While each child shared their beautiful, original poems, audience members munched on Christmas goodies and drank hot chocolate. First graders built confidence while all in attendance got to appreciate the talents of our friends!

Second Grade Spends "World Read Aloud Day" With Author Amanda Davis



On Feb. 7, World Read Aloud Day, Seneca East second graders shared in a virtual author visit with Amanda Davis. Amanda wrote a book titled "30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag." It is a story of hope, solidarity, and healing in the face of tragedy.

Amanda read her book to our second grade students and shared her perspective on Sept. 11, 2001. Students engaged in a question-and-answer session with Amanda, and made real-life connections with the 9/11 World Memorial we hosted at Seneca East this past September.

Our second grade extends a very special thank you to Mrs. Andrea Schimpf and Mrs. Amanda Zellner for scheduling the author visit.



Middle School and High School Teachers Create New, Unique Learning Opportunities for Students

Middle and high school students continue to benefit from our educators going the extra mile this winter. Take a look at what these fantastic classes have been up to!



Mrs. Lynch's eighth grade science students are using spoons to explore how structure is related to function. The seventh grade science students are exploring the Law of Conservation of Energy in class. Students are testing energy transformations using materials provided by North Central Electric Cooperative and the Ohio Energy Project E3 Smart Program.

Mrs. Spencer and the Local Vocals sing the National Anthem at the Toledo Walleye's hockey game. (More on this later in the newsletter!)



The high school student council hosted their first blood drive of the 2023-2024 school year. The event was successful as students, staff, and community members were welcomed to help the American Red Cross. The high school student council also collected Christmas cards and had their annual nursing home visit to Elmwood at the Shawhan in Tiffin. We thank our students and teachers for coming together to put on such great events!

Our middle school and high school art teachers are sure to be proud when they see their lessons come to life in their student's work! We're loving these Tim-Burton-inspired portraits.



Mr. Schultz's General Music class was very excited to learn about piano. It was one of his most requested topics for general music!

Celebrating Kindness at Seneca East Elementary

February 12-15 was Kindness Week at Seneca East Elementary School. Pictured is Principal Powers reading "What Does It Mean To Be Kind?" to a first grade class. Students reflected on what it means to be kind and shared examples of how to show kindness in our school.

All elementary students spent time during this week looking for random acts of kindness and sharing what they observed with their classmates and teachers.



Shining Bright! Lillian Watson Wins SEEA's Solar Eclipse T-shirt Design Contest

Lillian Watson won Seneca East Education Association's Solar Eclipse T-shirt Design Contest! Fundraised money will go toward the SEEA Scholarship fund to benefit future educators. We thank Lillian for sharing such artistic talent and extend our biggest congratulations on this win!





Seneca East Local Schools

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Seneca East App



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APRIL AND MAY TESTING SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Below are upcoming scheduling changes for our middle school and high school students. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school office or Mrs. Hunker.

- **April 17 and 18 - ELA Testing - No change in daily schedule**

- **April 30 and May 1 - Math Testing**

- Grades 6-7-8 will take Algebra I and Geometry tests
- *On this day, students not in Algebra I or Geometry testing may have a 2-hour delay, or they can come to school on time and go to an assigned classroom until classes begin later in the day*

- **May 7 - Science and Social Studies Testing**

- Grades 6 and 7 - No change in daily schedule
- Grade 8 will be testing
- Students taking Biology, American History and Government will also be testing
- *On this day high school students not in testing will be allowed a delayed schedule. Students may arrive either at 11:22 a.m. for a lunch/study hall or 12:32 p.m., when class begins. Please note that high school students must be at school by 12:32 p.m. for afternoon classes.*

SE Local Vocals Perform for Crowd of 7,000 at Toledo Walleye Game

Toledo Walleye fans cheered on the Seneca East Local Vocals as they performed an incredible rendition of the National Anthem on Sunday, Feb. 4. Ranging from grades 6-12, the Seneca East Local Vocals is a group of 20 elite student singers selected from an audition process. Congratulations to these students on an amazing performance!

