

ANNUAL FIFTH GRADE FARM TRIP

WE'D LIKE TO THANK THE HOLMES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT for their valuable contribution to the annual 5th-grade farm tour this fall. During the tour, students engaged in hands-on learning, rotating through various stations. They explored topics like farming, forestry, maple syrup production, wildlife, soils, and stream studies. They also had the opportunity to tour Walnut Creek Planing.

A special thanks to the Wengerd family at Ayrdell Farm for hosting the event and to the Hiland FFA students for their support throughout the day. We appreciate the effort and collaboration that went into making this educational experience possible!



A QUICK GUIDE TO ELEMENTARY GRADE CARD CHANGES

Some changes are taking place in our reporting system and on our report cards that we want to ensure are clear to parents.

After the first quarter, we sent home updated report cards for students in grades K-6. These new report cards are designed to align with our district's updated curriculum and structured literacy approach, ensuring that our students receive a well-rounded education.

Our new report cards utilize a simple yet effective system to provide you with a clear understanding of your child's progress:

+ (Plus): Indicates that your child has met the standard in specific skills.

□ (Check): Shows that your child is making progress toward the standard.

- (Minus): Suggests limited progress toward the standard.

These symbols are used to evaluate a wide range of structured literacy skills in both reading and writing. Additionally, spelling is now integrated into the reading grade, reinforcing the importance of letters, sounds and blending for accurate word recognition.

Starting in grades K-3, handwriting is included in the Foundations grade, ensuring that students develop essential motor skills for writing. We have also introduced comment boxes for teachers to communicate their children's individual strengths and needs, providing valuable insights into their learning journey. Further explanations will continue to accompany the elementary report cards to help you navigate the new system and better understand your child's progress.

DISTRICT UTILIZES \$554,000 GRANT TO ENHANCE SAFETY

Last fall, the East Holmes Local School District received a significant boost to our safety measures through the Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant Program. The district was awarded a grant of \$554,000, which has already substantially enhanced security across our eight schools.

The Ohio School Safety Grant program is an initiative aimed at enhancing the safety and security of K-12 schools across the state. With a total funding of over \$215 million distributed among 2,789 schools, this program provides financial assistance for physical security expenses. The grants can be used to support various safety measures, such as the installation of new security systems or the implementation of safety protocols.

We are proud to report that this investment in safety has already begun. Over the summer, we completed the installation of new PA systems and improved door access controls, two vital components in safeguarding our schools. We have also improved security by implementing security camera networks, window security film and adopting a district-wide GPS system for our buses.

By prioritizing the safety of students and staff, the Ohio School Safety Grant program plays a crucial role in fostering a conducive learning environment. It serves as a testament to the commitment of the state to creating safe educational spaces and offers valuable support to schools in their efforts to maintain a secure atmosphere for everyone involved.

The District is very grateful for this opportunity to strengthen our safety and security measures. We remain dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for our students, staff and community members.

DISTRICT UPDATE

Fall 2023

INSPIRE. PREPARE. CHALLENGE.



East Holmes Local

District at a glance



Exceeds state standards

Overall Rating

Districts and schools receive an overall rating of 1 to 5 stars in half-star increments. The overall rating is comprised of five rated components. The College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness Component is report only and does not contribute to the overall rating on the 2023 Ohio School Report Cards.

Print

Achievement

This component represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on tests overall.



Significantly exceeds state standards in academic achievement

View More Data

Progress

This component looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past performances.



Significant evidence that the district fell short of student growth expectations.

View More Data

Gap Closing

The Gap Closing Component is a measure of the reduction in educational gaps for student subgroups.

Gifted Data



Significantly exceeds state standards in closing educational gaps

View More Data

Graduation

The Graduation Component is a measure of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.



Significantly exceeds state standards in graduation rates

View More Data

Early Literacy

The Early Literacy Component is a measure of reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade.



Exceeds state standards in early literacy (K-3)

View More Data

College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness

This component looks at how well-prepared Ohio's students are for future opportunities, whether training in a technical field or preparing for work or college.

View More Data



MISSION

Inspiring excellence to prepare students in becoming productive and responsible citizens through a partnership of exceptional leadership, dedicated staff, and a supportive community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

Welcome back, East Holmes Local Schools Community!

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start, and I am pleased to witness the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our students and teachers. Their commitment to our district's mission to Inspire, Prepare and Challenge is as strong as ever, and it sets a positive tone for the entire year.

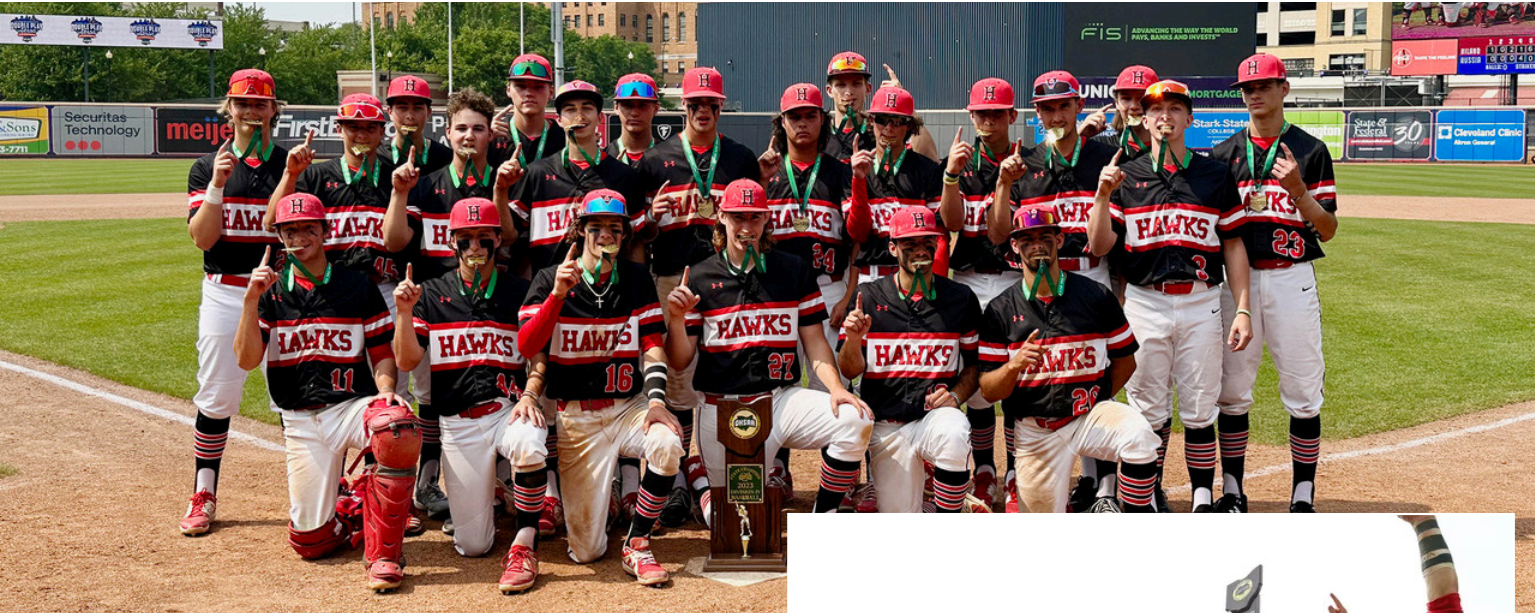
I am proud to report that on the 2023 Ohio School Report Card, the District has achieved a 4-star rating overall, with 5 stars in achievement, graduation and gap closing. This rating is a testament to the hard work and commitment to excellence our students and staff achieve with the support of parents and our community.

As we continue to progress through the year, we look forward to the challenges and successes that lie ahead. As a community, we will continue to nurture an environment where each student can grow, learn and achieve their fullest potential.

Thank you for your ongoing support of East Holmes Local Schools. Together, we can create a year filled with growth, accomplishments and more reasons to celebrate.

Sincerely,
Erik Beun, Superintendent
East Holmes Local Schools

Hiland Hawks Win OHSA Division IV STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



IN A THRILLING SHOWDOWN at Canal Park in Akron this June, the Hiland High Baseball Team emerged as the victors, dominating the defending champion, the Russia Raiders, with a final score of 14-4 to clinch the OHSA Division IV state baseball title.

The game started off well as the Hiland Hawks took an early 4-0 lead, capitalizing on three costly errors by Russia. However, the Raiders fought back fiercely, tying the score at 4-4 in the fourth inning. But just when it seemed the momentum had swung in Russia's favor, the Hiland Hawks rallied back in the top of the fifth inning, igniting an impressive scoring spree that saw them rack up six runs. Isaak Yoder, the hero of the day, not only delivered a crucial two-run double but also displayed his prowess on the mound, silencing the Raiders' bats for the remainder of the game while striking out an impressive eight batters.

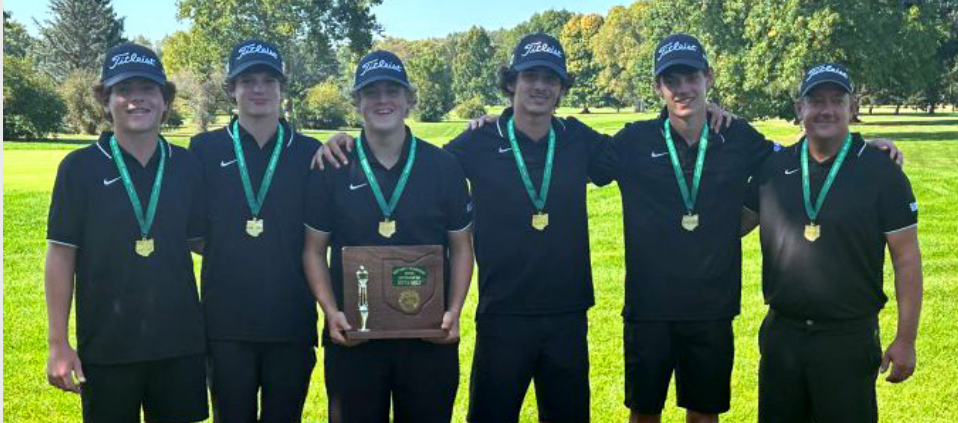
As the final innings unfolded, Hiland tacked on four more runs to secure their commanding lead, ultimately clinching the state championship. Isaak Yoder sealed the victory



with his last strikeout, initiating the well-deserved celebration for the Hiland Hawks.

This victory was the cherry on top of a remarkable season for the Hawks, who had entered the tournament as the top-ranked team in Ohio and concluded their campaign with an outstanding 30-1 record. Their resilience and determination in the face of adversity exemplify the spirit of champions. Congratulations to the entire Hiland High Baseball Team and Head Coach Chris Dages on their well-earned state title!

CONGRATULATIONS TO HILAND BOYS GOLF FOR PLACING FOURTH IN DIV. III STATE TOURNAMENT!



Central Office and Bus Garage AT NEW LOCATION

The district is pleased to announce a significant development for the East Holmes Local School District that will enhance its operational efficiency and services. Thanks to the district's purchase of the former Eco-Seal property in December 2022, we are working on an exciting renovation project.

The 1.872-acre lot, conveniently located across from the Reese Center at Hiland High and Middle School, will soon become the new home for the central office and bus garage. A&R Builders will undertake the necessary renovations to transform the existing building into a facility that is well suited to our district's needs.

This updated facility will provide a central hub for our district's services and staff and pave the way for improved operational efficiency. With the assistance of Tekton Engineering and A&R Builders, the goal is completion by April 30, 2024.



As renovations progress, the community can anticipate periodic updates on the status of the project. For more information, please visit <https://www.eastholmes.org>, follow the district on Facebook, and keep an eye out for the quarterly district newsletter.



HILAND STUDENTS ATTEND LIFE SKILLS CAMP

In October, Hiland juniors and seniors had the opportunity to attend the Holmes County Life Skills Camp generously sponsored by 18 local businesses, organizations and associations, including the Holmes County Farm Bureau, the Ohio State College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Sun Valley Auto Repair, and more. Thank you to the sponsors, community experts, and Holmes County Farm Bureau for hosting the camp!

TREASURER'S CORNER



Daniel Reiman, *Treasurer*
East Holmes Local Schools

The East Holmes website's District Finance Page has been revamped to invite our community members to explore further insights into how East Holmes bolsters its students, supports its staff, and engages with the community. The updates include a welcome from the East Holmes Treasurer's office team, along with a detailed presentation of the semi-annual Five Year Financial Forecast. The forecast offers a comprehensive perspective, examining past revenues and expenditures over three years, while projecting the financial landscape five years ahead, with a specific focus on the District's General Fund. The page also includes information on state-required annual audits that help to ensure fiscal integrity and transparency, and a glossary of school finance terms to help empower our school community to better understand changes at the local, state, and federal levels that impact our East Holmes schools.