



Congratulations to Hiland's 2024 Homecoming Court!



Students had a great first day back to school!

## Superintendent's Column



Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! As we embark on another academic journey, I want to extend my best wishes to all of our students, families, and staff for a wonderful first part of the year. It's an exciting time filled with new opportunities for growth and success, and I'm confident that this year will bring out the best in all of us.

I'm pleased to announce that our district's phased classroom renovation project is well underway. Over the coming years, we'll be revitalizing about 130 classrooms, ensuring our learning environments continue to meet the needs of our students. With improvements like new flooring, lighting, and modern furniture, this project highlights our commitment to enhancing current facilities without requiring a ballot measure. You can read more about the renovation in this issue of the newsletter.

I also want to remind you that our district's Central Office and Bus Garage have moved to the newly-renovated facility located at 4535 TR 367, Millersburg, Ohio 44654.

Thank you for your continued support of East Holmes Schools, and let's make this a fantastic year together!

Sincerely,  
**Erik Beun, Superintendent**  
East Holmes Local Schools

## Board of Education Meeting Dates

October 17 - 3:30 pm at 4535 TR 367, Millersburg, OH 44654

November 15 - 7:30 am at 4535 TR 367, Millersburg, OH 44654

December 20 - 7:30 am at 4535 TR 367, Millersburg, OH 44654

## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

17 Early Dismissal (2 Hours)

18 **NO SCHOOL** (In-Service)

### NOVEMBER

4,7 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Hiland Middle and High School)

8 **NO SCHOOL** Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades 7 and 8)

12 Early Dismissal (2 Hours)

19,21 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary)

22 **NO SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS** (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

27 Early Dismissal (2 Hours)

28-29 **Thanksgiving Break**

### DECEMBER

2 **NO SCHOOL**

11 Early Dismissal (2 Hours)

20 Early Dismissal (2 Hours)

December 23 - January 3  
**Christmas Break**

### JANUARY

6 **NO SCHOOL** (In-Service)

## MISSION

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

# Gifted Intervention at East Holmes

The district's Gifted Intervention Program is making strides in providing advanced educational opportunities for students who are identified as gifted, particularly in 5th and 6th grades.

These students participate in a weekly pull-out program led by the district's Gifted Coordinator. Working in small groups with other gifted learners, they engage in advanced-level instruction while still enjoying the benefits of social interaction.

Students are identified for the program based on Ohio's Gifted Rule, which defines gifted individuals as those performing at high levels compared to their peers. To qualify, students must meet specific standards on state-mandated tests, allowing them to receive instruction tailored to their unique abilities and needs.

In the gifted classroom, students have the opportunity to explore topics in greater depth, challenge themselves with advanced reading materials, and participate in hands-on activities that make learning more meaningful. Whether it's accelerating math skills or diving deeper into language arts, the program is designed to stimulate the "gifted brain" and foster personal growth.

Collaboration between the Gifted Coordinator (IA) and classroom teachers is essential. By maintaining strong communication, both teachers and the IA can ensure that students are appropriately challenged across all learning environments. While the program is still developing, there is already excitement among students and staff, with gifted learners showing more engagement and confidence in their educational journeys.

As the Gifted Intervention Program continues to grow, the district looks forward to the opportunities it brings for gifted students to thrive academically and socially.

For more information about Gifted Education at East Holmes, contact Gifted Coordinator Annaleigh Strouse at 330.893.2610 ext. 1001 or [annaleigh.strouse@eastholmes.org](mailto:annaleigh.strouse@eastholmes.org).

# Phased Classroom Renovation Planning Underway

A significant classroom revitalization project is now underway, aimed at updating approximately 130 classrooms across the district.

The multi-year project will be conducted over summer breaks to minimize disruption to students and staff. The improvements include new flooring, fresh paint, updated lighting, and modern furniture to enhance the learning environment for students.

Now in the planning phase, the district is working closely with GPD Group, an architectural and engineering firm, and will soon move into the design phase. A construction management firm will also be selected to ensure smooth project execution. These upgrades build on recent efforts to improve learning spaces, following the district's use of COVID relief funds to improve heating and cooling systems at our school buildings and to upgrade classroom technology.

The project also highlights the district's commitment to enhancing its current facilities, emphasizing a focus on facility improvements rather than school consolidation. This decision celebrates what makes our district unique—our small, close-knit school communities. With funds intentionally set aside for the project, careful and intentional financial planning has made it possible to support these improvements without requiring a ballot measure.

Board of Education President Steve Miller said, "This project demonstrates our commitment to providing a positive learning environment for our students while honoring the values of our community."

Updates will be shared as the project progresses, with more details to be provided in the next quarterly newsletter and online at [www.eastholmes.org](http://www.eastholmes.org).



## Welcome to Our New Team Members!

We are excited to welcome the newest members of the East Holmes Local Schools family!

Each brings unique talents and skills to our district, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have on our students, staff, and community. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome as they begin this exciting journey with us!

# East Holmes K-8 Transitioning to Trimester Grading Periods

Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, East Holmes Local School District will implement trimester grading periods for students in grades K-8, excluding Hiland Middle and High School, which will continue using nine-week grading periods.

This change comes after a district-wide update to the report cards, initiated by the Report Card Committee and supported by the majority of teaching staff.

The new trimester system divides the school year into three 12-week grading periods, which offers several advantages for students and teachers alike. The extended grading periods provide primary students more time to adjust to school routines and allow all students additional teaching time between report cards, ensuring they have more opportunities to demonstrate their learning.

Trimesters also align with the district's diagnostic assessments, which are administered three times a year. These include i-Ready and Acadience, tools that help teachers assess students' current academic levels and identify areas requiring additional attention, as well as subjects in which students are excelling. The consistency between the grading periods and these assessments ensures that students receive timely, targeted instruction based on their needs.

## 2024-2025 School Year Key Dates

- End of First Trimester: November 8, 2024
- Report Cards Sent Home: November 18, 2024
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary): November 19, 21 (evening), and November 22
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (Hiland Middle and High School): November 4, 7 (evening), and November 8 (grades 7 and 8)
- End of Second Trimester: February 21, 2025
- Report Cards Sent Home: March 3, 2025
- End of Third Trimester: May 28, 2025
- Report Cards Sent Home: June 2025

The district is confident that this change will enhance the educational experience for both students and staff. For additional information, please reach out to your building principal.

## District Earns 3.5 Rating on 2024 Report Card

East Holmes Local Schools is proud to share the achievements highlighted in the Ohio School Report Card.

With notable accomplishments in early literacy, achievement, gap closing and overall performance, the district demonstrates its commitment to student success and continuous growth. These results reflect the dedication of the teachers, staff, students, and families who strive to create a positive learning environment every day. The district continues to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education.



Meets State Standards

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: Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation and Early Literacy.

Each school in the district earned strong overall ratings on the 2023-2024 Ohio School Report Card. Chestnut Ridge Elementary, Flat Ridge Elementary, and Mt. Hope Elementary all received 4.5 stars, while Walnut Creek Elementary achieved an impressive 5-star rating. The district also performed well overall in "Gap Closing," with all schools earning 4 or 5 stars, indicating progress in meeting educational benchmarks. Early literacy was another highlight, with four elementary schools receiving 5 stars and two earning 4. Additionally, the district earned 4 stars in "Achievement," reflecting strong student performance on state tests and overall success. These achievements showcase the district's progress in key areas.



For more information, view the full report by scanning the QR code or visit [reportcard.education.ohio.gov/district/047688](https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/district/047688).



## THE LEADER IN ME PROGRAM

# Building Leadership Across East Holmes Elementary Schools

The district proudly integrates the Leader in Me program across all seven elementary schools, helping students develop leadership, responsibility, and personal growth skills. Based on Stephen Covey's 7 Habits, the program empowers students to take ownership of their development and positively impact their school communities.

LeaderinMe®

## FIND YOUR VOICE

The goal is to show every student that leadership is within their reach. Through classroom jobs, action teams, and student-led initiatives, students are given opportunities to practice leadership daily. "The goal is to show all our students that each and every one of them can be a leader," explains one principal.

The program has led to noticeable improvements in student behavior, with students more engaged, responsible, and willing to participate in activities like student elections. The Leader in Me program also fosters a sense of accountability, collaboration, and goal-setting, preparing students for future success.

Teachers across the district integrate the 7 Habits into daily lessons and classroom routines, creating a culture of respect, responsibility, and continuous growth. Weekly leadership time and monthly assemblies help reinforce these principles, fostering a stronger school community.

Parental support at home plays a key role in reinforcing the habits, and the district provides resources to help families encourage leadership development. This partnership between school and home creates a consistent environment where students can practice the skills they learn.

The program has led to many success stories, from student-led assemblies to community service projects. One parent shared how the program helped their child navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing structure and resilience.

As East Holmes continues to expand Leader in Me, the district remains committed to developing strong leaders in every student.

# Flexible Job. Big Impact.

## Become a Substitute School Bus Driver!

Looking for a job that works with your schedule? Want to make a big impact in the lives of students? Join East Holmes Local Schools as a substitute school bus driver! You'll help students get to school safely while enjoying flexible hours, competitive pay, and the satisfaction of knowing you're making a difference. Visit [www.eastholmes.k12.oh.us/page/employment](http://www.eastholmes.k12.oh.us/page/employment).

- Ideal for retirees, parents, or anyone looking for part-time work
- Paid training and support
- Make a positive impact on our students' school experience!



**Ready to hop in the driver's seat? Apply today!**