

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools *2022-2023 Summer District Newsletter*

~ News from the Superintendent~

We are looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year and to welcoming over 1200 students into our district on the first day of school. Our enrollment numbers have stayed very consistent over the past 25 years, which is a real tribute to our community and staff because many schools in our region have lost considerable enrollment in that same time frame.

We have some new staff members to welcome this year. Jay Stratton will take over Larry Diller's bus route, due to Larry's retirement. Martin Grace, Chasity Taylor, and Jill Wilson will be new employees in our cafeterias. Mary Glick, our new elementary music teacher, is replacing the retired Alice Basinger, while Caleb Garmon will be a new third-grade teacher in our district. In the middle school, Katrina Riepenhoff will teach math, due to the retirement of Dina Tadana. At the high school, Emily Spallinger will be the intervention specialist, and Rachel Skilliter will replace Pam Riffle in the math department. Missy Smith will fill a newly created position in the district as elementary guidance counselor. Please feel free to reach out to Missy regarding any concerns you have with your students in the elementary; she will be a resource for academic and emotional support for these early ages. We welcome each of these new staff members to the Pirate staff.

School security is always a point of emphasis with our students, staff, and community. We have taken many steps to help with the security in our district and continue to have training with our staff in the event of an emergency. Our latest step is to hire a full-time school resource officer in partnership with the Bluffton Police Department. We look for this school resource officer to add a layer of security and to build positive relationships with students, staff, parents, and our community. This position will be filled as soon as possible this fall when the Bluffton Police Department has a replacement available to free this officer for each day of school. Please continue to talk to your students at home about anything they hear that is suspicious or unusual in any way. If you see or hear something, please say something to a school administrator or the police. In addition, our school system is a part of the Ohio School Safety Center tip line called SAFEROH. The phone number, which is 844-723-3764, can also be found on our website.

We are excited to continue our Senior Citizen Breakfast performances this school year; those dates are listed on page three. Typically, breakfast starts at 8:30 AM with a performance starting shortly after 9AM. Please spread the word and invite friends to this monthly event; it is great to see everyone showing interest in watching our students on stage. Thank you to our kitchen staff and to our sponsors -- Citizens National Bank, First National Bank, Sprunger Insurance, Ellerbrock Spine and Soft Tissue, Lewis Family McDonald's, Blanchard Valley Hospital, Senior Citizen Center, and Mennonite Home Communities -- for donating the free breakfast each month. Our students and staff look forward to hosting these events each year.

The financial report on this page shows our general fund information for the 2022 fiscal year. We have been able to achieve financial stability due to the cost-saving measures that have been put in place over the last several years. Our district spends \$3265 less than the state average per pupil, but achievement levels for the district are consistently near the top in the state. This could not be achieved without the support of our parents, students, staff, and community; everyone plays an important role in helping each of our students succeed. While our carryover balance is healthy, we are trying to be prepared for whenever there is a downturn in the economy. If there is a

cut to our state funding, our goal is to be able to continue to operate with nearly the same capacity of staff, without having to return to our taxpayers for more funding. We will continue to look for ways to be fiscally responsible to you, our community, while still providing our students with an excellent education.

Our professional development this year with our staff will focus on using some new intervention platforms to help fill the gap for our students, especially in the areas of language arts and mathematics. Part of the staff in-service this week will focus on these new learning platforms (IXL and I-ready). Also, our in-service training will focus on student safety and emotional health. On Thursday, August 25, our staff will hear from Dr. Ruby Payne on the topic of Emotional Poverty in All Demographics. The intent of this workshop is to help our staff be able to aid our students emotionally when they are facing difficulties, thereby meeting the needs of all our students.

On the second page of this newsletter, you will find the permanent improvement projects which were completed over the course of the past year. These funds allow our district to make repairs and improvements to our facilities for our students and community. While our buildings are not new, we believe the updates and upkeep with each facility make for an excellent learning environment. We thank our community for the support of our school district and the ability to keep our district up-to-date.

We look forward to educating the students in our district this year. This is wonderful privilege and opportunity. Thank you for your continued support of Bluffton Exempted Village Schools and the students we serve. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to stop in or call me at 419-358-5901.

Greg Denecker – Superintendent

Financial Information for 2021-2022 General Fund

,Beginning Balance (July 1, 2021)	7,305,388
Outstanding Encumbrances (FY 2021)	89,845
Beginning Cash Balance (July 1, 2021)	7,395,233
Revenue:	
Local Sources:	
Real Estate	3,917,479
Personal Tangible	1,247
Investment Earnings	9,683
Other Local Sources	909,164
State Sources:	
Foundation Program	5,493,214
Rollback & Homestead	429,292
Other State Sources	113,875
Other Receipts:	
Total Receipts Above	10,873,954
Plus Cash Balance	7,395,233
TOTAL REVENUES	18,269,187
Expenditures:	
Salaries & Wages	6,373,009
Fringe Benefits	2,494,489
Purchased Service	1,196,725
Materials, Supplies, Texts	238,990
Capital Outlay	-0-
Other Expenditures	158,453
Transfers/Advances	10,050
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	10,471,716
ENDING CASH BALANCE	7,797,471
Outstanding Encumbrances	95,358
Ending Balance (June 30, 2022)	7,702,113

Bluffton Schools Permanent Improvement Projects

Over the course of the past year, our district has completed many different permanent improvement projects. In each summer's district newsletter, we outline the revenue that was brought in from this 1/2% permanent improvement income tax and the projects completed with these tax dollars. Below is the revenue chart of the combined monies brought in by the tax and the list of expenditures for the projects completed thanks to this fund.

Date	Revenue
October, 2021	\$191,863.65
January, 2022	\$196,572.63
April, 2022	\$265,452.52
July, 2022	\$422,748.40
Projects Sept. 2021-Aug. 2022	Expenditures
Plumbing Repairs and R/R Updates	\$24,975.54
Technology	\$183,115.62
HVAC Repairs and Updates	\$136,356.56
Outside Facilities Maintenance and Updates	\$55,344.83
Flooring	\$64,899.34
Painting	\$8,790.38
Furniture	\$40,218.23
Windows	\$11,614.44
Equipment and Repairs	\$75,513.64
Security/Safety	\$22,632.00
Electric and Lighting Updates	\$28,158.54
Paving/Concrete	\$58,907.00
Building/Classroom Repairs and Updates	\$46,101.65
Classroom Equipment	\$36,292.50
Textbooks/books	\$36,392.76
Concrete/Brick Maintenance and Repairs	\$28,410.00
Elementary Library Remodel	\$26,739.08
New Bus	\$54,875.00
(Bus Grant paid additional \$45,000)	
Total Expenses	\$939,337.11

Bluffton Schools will continue to use these funds to update our facilities as promised to the taxpayers of this community. As always, we at Bluffton Schools appreciate the community's support of our district's efforts to maintain and improve facilities. If you would like to see these improvements in person, please call me to set up a convenient time to view these updates firsthand.

Greg Denecker – Superintendent

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools - Mission Statement

The mission of the Bluffton Exempted Village School District is to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which flexibility is encouraged in meeting the needs of every student, and to value all persons and learning in order to develop individuals who demonstrate problem-solving skills, personal responsibility, and a desire for lifelong learning.

Please watch closely at all intersections around our district and proceed with caution both as a driver and as a pedestrian.

New Additions to the Staff...

Caleb Garmon – Elementary Teacher

Caleb Garmon graduated from the University of Findlay in 2020 and will teach 3rd grade. He is originally from Ada and now lives in Bluffton with his wife Kelsey and son Josiah. Caleb enjoys outdoor activities, sports, and spending time with family and friends. He is looking forward to a great school year with his students.

Mary Glick – Elementary Music Teacher

Mary Glick will teach K-5 music. No stranger to the community, Mary is a BHS and Bluffton University graduate. She earned a Master's Degree from Bowling Green State University. Mary has been the vocal music teacher at Kalida Local Schools for the past 14 years. While teaching out of town, Mary and her husband David remained in the Bluffton community with their three children, Haddy, Judah, and Lucy, who attend Bluffton elementary. Mary enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and church community. She is excited to once again be a Pirate and be part of the Bluffton school system.

Martin Grace – Cafeteria Worker

Marty was in the United States Marine Corp and is a retired corrections officer from AOCI. Marty and his wife Cheryl have 7 children and 21 grandchildren. In his free time, Marty enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. Marty particularly enjoys being a professional Papaw. He is excited to become a part of the Bluffton school district.

Katrina Riepenhoff – Middle School Teacher

Katrina Riepenhoff is excited to be teaching 7th-grade math after spending the past four years teaching 5th-grade math and science at Ridgemont Elementary. Katrina, originally from Glandorf, graduated from BGSU in 2018. She enjoys traveling, baking, and spending time with friends and families. She adores her 2-year-old rescue dog Baxter. Katrina is excited to join the Pirate crew and community.

Rachel Skilliter – High School Teacher

Rachel Skilliter will be teaching math at the high school, including the College Credit Plus courses. She is a 2017 graduate of Bluffton University and will begin her sixth year of teaching in the Bluffton school system. She graduated with her Master's Degree in curriculum and teaching in 2021 and is working toward another Master's in Mathematics through Indiana State University. Community residents may recognize her from her years of work at Luke's or Southgate Lanes. Rachel and her husband Evan have been married 6 years and reside in Bluffton with their daughter Lena (1) and two dogs. In her free time, Rachel likes to browse Main Street and spend time with her family. She is looking forward to immersing herself in the Pirate culture and building deeper relationships within the community.

Melissa Smith – Elementary Guidance Counselor

Missy Smith will be the school counselor in the elementary building. Originally from South Bend, Indiana, Missy moved to Ohio 6 years ago with her husband Cody, a native of Lima and a CPA. Their two children are Cameron (3) and Peyton (1). As a school psychologist assistant at Lima City Schools and Allen County ESC, Missy has 6 years of education experience. She earned her B.S. from Goshen College and Master's Degree from St. Bonaventure University. In her free time, she enjoys playing and watching sports and spending time with her family. Missy is very excited to be part of the Bluffton community and to meet all the students.

Emily Spallinger – High School Teacher

Emily Spallinger will be the intervention specialist at the high school. Emily, born and raised in Bluffton, graduated from BHS in 2017. After graduating, she attended Bowling Green State University and graduated in May 2021. Emily then returned to Bluffton and started her educational career in the Lima City School district. This summer, Emily and Andrew were married. In her spare time, Emily enjoys doing puzzles, going on walks, spending time with friends and family, playing cards, and cooking/baking. She is excited to be returning to her alma mater and giving back to the district that inspired her to become an educator.

Jay Stratton – Bus Driver

After 14 years as a substitute bus driver, Jay Stratton will drive full time now. He retired from Tower Automotive after working there 28 years. Jay, a BHS graduate, was raised outside Bluffton. He and wife Sherry have been married for 25 years and have two children, Emily and Sean. Jay says Bluffton is a great Pirate community in this Buckeye country.

Chasity Taylor – Cafeteria Worker

Chasity has been subbing for Bluffton schools for the last three years. She and husband Rob have three children: Alexis, Austin, and Robby. In her free time, Chasity loves spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, gardening, and bonfires. She is excited and honored to begin a new year in the high school and to work with the staff and students.

Jill Wilson – Cafeteria Worker

Jill, a Bluffton graduate, has spent the last 21 years caring for residents at the Bluffton Mennonite Home. She and husband Mike have three children: Amanda, Zachary, and Mackayla. Jill enjoys spending time with her three grandsons and family, traveling, and the outdoors. She is looking forward to serving the students of the elementary and middle schools.

Senior Citizen Breakfast 2022-2023

September 14	Marching Band
October 19	Show Choir (3 rd Wed of Month)
November 9	Drama Club
December 14	Concert Choir
January 11	Strings
February 8	Solo and Ensemble Students
March 15	Band (3 st Wed of Month)
April 12	Musical Cast
May 10	Jazz Band

2022-2023 School Calendar

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools

August 29	Monday	School Opens
September 5	Monday	No School - Labor Day
October 28	Friday	End of 1st Grading Period
November 22/23	Tues./Wed.	No School-(Elem/MS)
November 23	Wednesday	No School – (HS)
November 24/25	Thurs./Fri.	No-School– Thanksgiving
December 21	Wednesday	Last Day of School for 2022
January 3	Tuesday	School Re-opens 2023
January 13	Friday	End of 2nd Grading Period
January 16	Monday	No School-King Day
February 20	Monday	No School-Presidents' Day
March 24	Friday	End of 3rd Grading Period
April 7 & 10	Fri/Mon.	No School-Spring Break
May 26	Friday	End of 4 th Grading Period
May 27	Saturday	Commencement
May 30	Tuesday	Staff Post-Service Day

Meet-the-Teacher

Meet-the-Teacher will be August 24. The elementary will be open from 5:00-6:00 P.M., the middle school from 6:00-7:00 P.M., and the high school from 6:00-7:00 P.M. This is an opportunity for parents and children to meet the teachers.

Pirate Pride!!

If you do not want your child's name or picture released to any media outlet or on our website, please tell your child's building office in writing by September 23, 2022



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Listed are the dates and times for parent-teacher conferences in the Bluffton Schools. This is an excellent time to meet with our teachers and discuss the educational progress of your child(ren). We hope you plan to attend.

Bluffton Elementary and Middle Schools

Monday, November 21	5:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, November 22	9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Bluffton High School

Monday, November 21	5:00- 8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, November 22	5:00- 8:00 P.M.

Bluffton School Open House

The Bluffton Schools will hold a district-wide open house on Monday evening, September 26. The elementary will be open from 6:00-7:00 P.M., the middle school from 6:30-7:30 P.M., and the high school from 7:00-8:00 P.M. Several community organizations will have booths set up in the elementary gymnasium, and information will be available on ways to provide support to the school and community.

All parents and community members are invited to this open house to meet staff members, observe facilities, and learn more about the educational opportunities available to Bluffton students.

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools
102 S. Jackson St.
Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bluffton, OH 45817
Permit No 157

Postal Patron

School Cancellations or Delays/Parent Alert System

During the school year there may be times, especially during inclement weather, that we may have to delay school or cancel classes for the day. Please go to www.blufftonschools.org and click under parent alert system on the right-hand column. Follow the simple steps to receive text messages and emails for delays, cancellations, announcements, or for cases of an emergency at school. In addition, you may listen to your local radio or television stations for announcements of delays or cancellations.

Several stations make these announcements: WIMA, WFIN, WKXA, WLIO (TV 35)

If we should close school in excess of five calamity days, we may use the following days as make-up days:

- #1 January 16, 2023
- #2 February 20, 2023

Additional days as needed will be added to the end of the year beginning with Tuesday May 30, 2023.

Annual Notification to Building Users and Employees

In accordance with Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986, our facilities have been inspected, and a management plan has been developed for the control of any asbestos-containing material (ACM) found in our buildings. The inspection report and management plan were completed by a certified consulting firm. A copy of the inspection report and management plan is located in each building office for public review.

It is significant to report that the buildings in our district have had all accessible, friable ACM removed. All miscellaneous non-friable ACM has been well-maintained and is being managed by professionals through periodic evaluations and inspections. Any suspect ACM should not be disturbed. Contact Mike Wilson for additional information.

Athletic Alerts - Go to blufftonschools.org under parent alert system to sign up for athletic event reminders that will be sent to you for upcoming athletic events.

Listed below are the phone numbers for each building in the Bluffton School District. Please call our offices with any questions and concerns you might have about the schools. We appreciate any input in helping maintain a quality education for our students.

<u>Central Office</u>	<u>419-358-5901</u>
<u>High School</u>	<u>419-358-7941</u>
<u>Middle School</u>	<u>419-358-7961</u>
<u>Elementary School</u>	<u>419-358-7951</u>

Bluffton Exempted Village School District Board of Education

Larry Hoffman, President
Brad Dailey, Vice-President
Roni Kaufman
Wes Klinger
Jeremy Scoles

The Board of Education typically meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Elementary Media Center. If there is a change in the date, time, or meeting place, it is announced in the newspaper.

Annual Notification of Federal Funds

The Bluffton Exempted Village School receives federal funds in the areas of reading, math, library, and education of handicapped children. If you have any suggestions on how these funds should be used, please contact the district superintendent at 419-358-5901.

Visit Bluffton Schools Website:
www.blufftonschools.org