



PIRATE PRIDE!

BLACK RIVER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Proudly Serving the Communities of Albion, Cinnamon Lake, Homerville, Huntington, Spencer and Sullivan.

June 2018

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Parents, Staff and Community Members,

Before we start to focus on the future of the 2018-2019 school year for the Black River Local Schools, I want to take a moment and congratulate the 103 graduates of the class of 2018 and their families, as they prepare for life encounters beyond the doors of Black River High School.

Over the past four years, this district has tried to make physical improvements to our facilities and correctly invest funds in the operations of our buildings. These changes would not be possible without the community's investment in our schools. We have tried to be fiscally responsible and appreciate any and all public input in our district operations.

At the end of 2018, the bond repayment for the Black River Education Center (BREC) will be complete. This will bring our district to yet another crossroad. The Black River Board of Education will be requesting from the community the opportunity to convert the BREC bond into a Permanent Improvement (PI) levy. You might be asking a couple of questions already: will this increase my taxes and what is a Permanent Improvement levy? First of all, the goal of the board is not to ask for an increase in taxes. While the PI levy will be considered a new levy, it will **NOT** be an additional cost to taxpayers. This conversion

would be the same cost that a Black River property owner is currently paying. It would generate approximately \$313,000. A PI levy is a user-specific levy. It would mean for the Black River Local Schools we can spend the funds only on items that have a life of no less than five years. For example, roofs, desks, chairs, buses, heating and cooling, and security, are all items that are in need of some attention. They cannot be used for operational expenses like wages and benefits, or the daily bills that would go into operating a home or business. The goal of the district is to make repairs to our buildings in such a way so that we can prolong their life, and further extend the operations of the Black River Local Schools. Our goal is to be the shining point of the community and maintain and strengthen what we have.

The Black River Local Schools will be creating a five-year plan as a continuation of the Black River Board of Education's goals to show how they would plan on investing the \$313,00 over the next five years. This five-year plan will be released in August.

Thank you again for your continued support of our schools and district. Your partnership and dedication to our students is vital to the success of the Black River Local Schools. If you should have any questions, please contact me at 419-736-3300 ext.101 or email me at cclark@blrv.org.

Sincerely,
Chris A. Clark, Superintendent



SCHOOL CALENDAR

June 11-15
Camp Invention
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
BREC

July 9-13
Safety Town
9-11 a.m.
BREC

August 3-5
Stuff the Bus (sponsored by
Huntington Amvets)

August 16
Sixth-Grade Orientation
5:30-7 p.m.
BREC

August 27
District Open House
4-6 p.m.
All Buildings

August 28
First Day of School

September 3
Endowment Fund
Consignment Auction
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
BREC Parking Lot

September 28
Homecoming
Varsity Football Game vs. Keystone
7 p.m.

Visit www.blackriverschools.org to view our full calendar of events.



Black River Local School District is Now on Facebook!



Follow us Facebook to stay up to date with the latest happenings at Black River. Visit www.facebook.com/BlackRiverSchools and click the "Like" button.

Congratulations Class of 2018!

The Black River Local School District Class of 2018 graduated on Saturday, May 26. This exceptional group of students should be proud of all of their accomplishments during their time at Black River.

This year, 61 percent of our seniors graduated at merit roll status or above. This, combined with their strong test scores, earned them more than \$3.2 million in scholarships. Many of our seniors also participated in College Credit Plus courses, meaning they earned college credit while in high school. Collectively, these students earned 836 credit hours to jump start their college careers. Additionally, Jason Wright was a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. Noah Hufenbach and Trevor Scott had perfect attendance this school year and Trevor Scott had perfect attendance all four years of high school.

Whether it is on the field or on the court, Black River boasts some of the best athletes in the state. Jacob Campbell (wrestling), Hannah Heath (cross country), Russell Schultz (cross country) and Shianne Wacker (bowling) have been recognized by the Athletic Boosters for their accomplishments and will become a part of the Athletic Wall of Fame at Black River High School.

Black River also has an outstanding fine arts program. Erica Benson, Leah Halblaub, and Maddie Hane had their artwork recognized in "Inkspot," a Literary Review published by the Medina County Educational Service Center. Additionally, our band and choir programs are excelling and receiving top ratings at regional and state competitions.

This year, our seniors contributed more than 2,000 hours of services to our community. Senior Callee Aviles contributed more than 200 service hours to Black River, earning her the Black River Senior Service Award. Our students have a heart for the community and we are incredibly proud of their desire to give back.

At Black River, we also have a heart for our military. Four of our seniors formally acknowledged they are joining the military after graduation:

- Noah Hufenbach, US Air Force
- Devon Kuntz, US Air Force
- Dylan Neff, US Army National Guard
- Jonathan Fortney, US Navy

These are just a few of the many accomplishments of the Class of 2018. They have brought so much to the Black River Local School District and we know they will make a positive impact as they go out into the world.

Eighth-Grade Bridging Ceremony

Eighth-grade students were recognized in a bridging ceremony on May 30. Each student was able to share his or her achievements, involvements and future plans. Treyce Wood received the BRMS School Citizenship award while Nicole Beard and Logan Clifford were recognized as the OHSAA Archie Griffith award recipients. Also being recognized at the ceremony were Mr. Doug Scheck and Mrs. Cheri Scheck, both who are retiring after years of service to BRLSD.



Permanent Improvement Levy to Be Placed on November 2018 Ballot

The Black River Local School District plans to place a Permanent Improvement (PI) levy on the November 2018 ballot. This levy WOULD NOT increase taxes.

In 2019, the district will pay off the bond for the Black River Education Center. The bond currently generates \$313,000 per year in order to pay for the building.

In an effort to maintain this funding and financial stability for the district, Black River will place a PI levy on the ballot in November that will generate the same amount as the bond, meaning NO increase in taxes.

A PI levy is used for the installation of items that have a lifespan of at least 5-7 years, including buses, windows, roofing and technology. A PI levy CANNOT be used for salaries or benefits.

The district will use these funds to help maintain district facilities, including any needed repairs and upgrades, including:

- Flooring
- Window and doorway repairs
- New lockers and doors at the high school
- Paving projects
- Heating and cooling system updates
- High school roof repairs
- Lab equipment
- Classroom upgrades
- Security cameras

“The Black River Local School District is committed to fiscal responsibility and transparency,” said Superintendent Chris Clark. “This is a great opportunity for the district to be able to maintain financial stability without increasing taxes.”

Summer Maintenance Projects and Upgrades

By: Chris Clark, Superintendent

Over the summer, the Black River Local School District will be performing several maintenance projects and upgrades to prepare for the 2018-2019 school year.

At the high school, the district will begin phase one of the asphalt project, which will include replacing entrances and making the walkways handicap accessible. Additionally, two doorway entrances will be replaced and the high school staff will receive new computers.

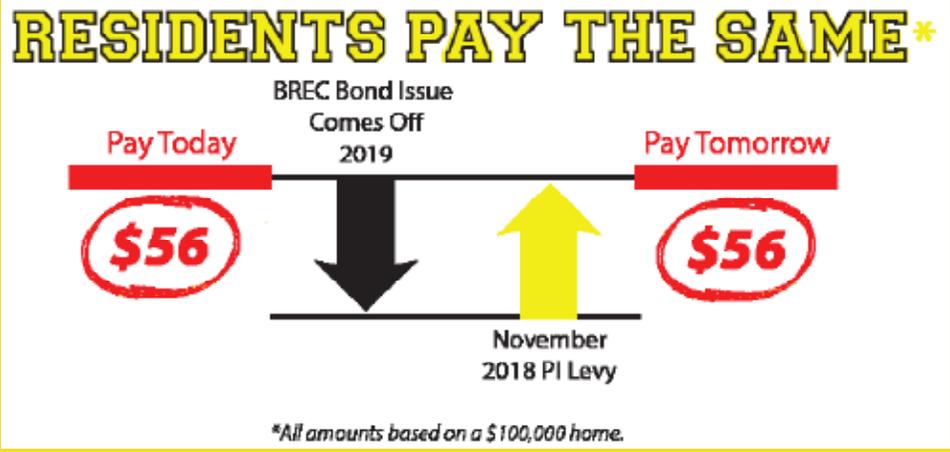
At the BREC, the district will sealcoat

the asphalt.

The district will also be redoing a custodial sink area, so the custodians can mix cleaning supplies and empty out the floor scrubbers and mop buckets.

At least two classrooms will receive technology upgrades.

Additionally, we would like to thank the Facility Commission for its fundraising efforts. This summer, we will be able to install new bleachers on the away side of the stadium at no cost to the district.



Now Enrolling Students for Preschool and Kindergarten

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for public or integrated preschool is open to children ages three to five who live in the Black River Local School District. Parents with children in other districts are welcome to register for only the public preschool classroom. For information on tuition and schedules, or to register your child, please call the board office at 419-736-3300. You can also visit the board office to pick up a registration packet in person.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will turn five years old by Sept. 30 are eligible for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration takes place Monday through Thursday from 8 - 3 p.m. at the Black River board office. When registering your child, please bring their birth certificate, proof of living in the district, immunization records and custody papers (if applicable). For more information, call the board office at 419-736-3300.

E-Communication Now Available

Black River Local School District now offers an option to register for eCommunication. The goal is to provide tailored communication for parents and community members. When you create your account, you will be able to choose which types of information you are interested in receiving. By choosing the Online Dashboard Weekly Updates, you will receive weekly updates on any new content added to the sections you select. Information can be sent via e-mail or text. If your contact information changes or you wish to change the type of information you receive, you can update your account at any time.

Please visit www.blackriverschools.org/protected/PublicUserLogin.aspx to register.

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Black River Local School District Maintains Fiscal Responsibility

By: Connie Hange, Treasurer

Over the past four years, the district has taken advantage of \$203,000 in state grants to provide additional educational opportunities for our students, including High Schools That Work, Making Middle Grades Work and the Army Educational Outreach Program, among others.

The Black River Local School District is committed to being responsible with taxpayers' dollars while providing an excellent education for our students.

Over the past four years, the district has taken advantage of \$203,000 in state grants to provide additional educational opportunities for our students, including High Schools That Work, Making Middle Grades Work and the Army Educational Outreach Program, among others. We were able to implement these programs at no cost to the district.

We have also been able to make several strategic reductions over the last four years to increase fiscal savings. The district has been able to reduce utility costs by approximately 15 percent thanks to the

completion of the HB264 projects.

Additionally, the district has been able to reduce the cost of supplies/materials by approximately 16 percent through concentrated purchasing.

These reductions, along with the passage of the renewal levy in November, have allowed the district to remain financially stable without making cuts in the classroom.

As a district, we will continue to be responsible and transparent with our finances. If you have any questions, contact the Treasurer's Office at 419-736-3300.