



PIRATE PRIDE!

BLACK RIVER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

September/October 2018

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Black River Community:

As we start to get into a rhythm for this upcoming school year, I want to thank everyone for their continued support of the Black River Local Schools.

I also want to take a moment to recognize our retirees from last year: Sherri and Doug Sheck, Joyce Travaliagnite, Dozier Hendershott, Gary Flegel and Rose Drake. They will all be missed and have

each made their marks at Black River over the years.

A few changes were implemented at the beginning of the school year, including the shifting of the district's internet network. We have tried to segment our network system to alleviate the network from shutting down, especially during key operational times when numerous students and staff need on the network. This was a major undertaking for the district since it required new wires and access points to be created. We also wanted to make sure we maintained our goal of being 1:1 district wide. With this switch in networks, and also trying to create the 1:1 environment, there have been some growing pains with implementation. I appreciate the patience of our students and staff as we make this transition.

District-wide, we are continuing to update and develop our curriculum. Recently, I received a phone call from someone in the community and they wanted to know how we make curriculum changes. Our curriculum is on a five-year review cycle. The year proceeding a curriculum adoption, the district starts to secure materials for review and ultimately will make an adoption. During the five-year process, we

review how the materials we purchased are used and if they support the required standards for the state of Ohio. A majority of this curriculum is technology driven, so for the most part, you will continue to see the district attempting to make changes to upgrade our technology to keep up with curricular demands.

We will continue to make adjustments to improve our grade on the Ohio Report Card and continue giving our students the best possible education. While the state report card is a summary of the district, it does not fully measure everything that is important to a student enrolled in the Black River Local Schools. Each year, we print a quality profile that also explains many of the educational activities and opportunities given to our students. If you would like a hard copy of this document, please contact my office or go to the Black River Local Schools website and click on the Quality Profile tab on the left side.

This year, the district will have the opportunity to start to convert the BREC bond issue to a permanent improvement (PI) levy. The Black River Board of Education created a five-year capital improvement plan in order to make some major upgrades to the buildings in the district. This PI levy can only be used for physical items that last for a period longer than five years. This Capital Improvement plan will assist the district by providing funds to make upgrades to the buildings and their security systems. If you would like to have a copy of the five-year capital plan, please contact the Black River Board of Education Office. It can also be found on the Black River Local Schools website.

Sincerely,
Chris A. Clark, Superintendent



SCHOOL CALENDAR

<p>October</p> <p>4 BRHS Parent-Teacher Conferences</p> <p>12 NEOEA Day – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>17 Winter Sports Meeting</p> <p>23 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences</p> <p>25 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences</p> <p>Board of Education Meeting, BRHS, 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p>November</p> <p>1 BRMS Parent-Teacher Conferences</p> <p>1 College Credit Plus Meeting, BRHS, 6-8 p.m.</p> <p>2 Teacher In-Service Day – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>8 BRMS Parent-Teacher Conferences</p> <p>10 Christmas by the River Craft Show, BREC Auditorium, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.</p> <p>12 DARE Graduation</p> <p>21 2-Hour Early Release Day</p> <p>22-23 Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>26 NO SCHOOL</p> <p>December</p> <p>11 BRHS Parent-Teacher Conferences</p> <p>24-31 Winter Break – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>January</p> <p>1-4 Winter Break – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>18 Records Day – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL</p>
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Visit www.blackriverschools.org to view our full calendar of events.

College Credit Plus Mandatory Meeting for Parents and Students

Thursday, November 1, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Black River High School Band Room

Who: Students in grades 8-11 who are eligible and interested in College Credit Plus (CCP) courses for the 2019-2020 school year are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Representatives from the University of Akron and Ashland University will discuss the following:

- Requirements and qualifications
- Steps to follow to enroll in the program
- Potential benefits and risks

CCP students and parents must be counseled and meet deadlines set by the State Board of Education. Call Mrs. Ford, Guidance Counselor, with any questions at 419-736-3303 ext. 203.

Welcome New Teachers and Staff!

The Black River Local School District is pleased to welcome our new teachers and staff for the 2018-2019 school year.



Grace Brewer – Black River Middle School Library Paraprofessional

Grace Brewer is excited to join the middle school staff as a Library paraprofessional. Mrs. Brewer is a graduate of West Holmes High School and The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. She taught high school agriculture in Northwestern Kansas for four years, then at Union Local High School in Belmont County for five years. After moving to the area, she became a familiar face as a substitute teacher in the Black River School District.



Alex Cores – Intervention Specialist

Alex Cores graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Akron in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Education. She holds a moderate to intensive intervention specialist license. She loves country music, her dog and cats, all Cleveland sports and being outdoors. In her third year of teaching, she is excited to be a part of Black River and looks forward to this new adventure.



Victoria Gordon – Black River Elementary/Middle School Paraprofessional

Victoria Gordon is excited to be a member of the Black River team! She comes from almost 40 years of experience as a licensed social worker at Child Guidance and Family Solutions in Akron. Mrs. Gordon is learning a great deal and looks forward to a new challenge. She appreciates everyone in her school who has been supportive in her new job.



Jordan Mitchell – Black River High School English Teacher

Jordan Mitchell is a University of Akron graduate. She is excited to be joining the Black River School District, and share her love of English Language Arts with her students.



Tyler Potter – Black River High School Intervention Specialist

Tyler Potter graduated from Black River High School in 2014. He attended Ashland University to obtain a degree as an Intervention Specialist, graduating in 2017. Mr. Potter currently teaches the Multi-Categorical classroom at the high school. Outside of school, Mr. Potter coaches the freshmen Boys' Basketball team.

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.

Facilities Updates

Over the summer, maintenance and custodial staff members were hard at work making a number improvements to the district's facilities.

At the high school, a new cooler was installed in the cafeteria and a ground level dump sink. A new exterior door was installed in the gymnasium and an exterior and foyer door at the south entrance of the building. A concrete handicap accessible walkway was created as a precursor to a paving project planned for 2019.

At the BREC, heaters and air conditioning units were installed in classrooms and an unused modular was removed. Outside, wood mulch was installed on the playground, cracks were sealed and the parking lot was restriped and sealant was applied to the sidewalks to extend the life of the concrete.

Additionally, late in the spring, an updated key fob system was installed at both the BREC and high school to improve the safety and security of the buildings.

Thank you to the staff for getting the schools ready for the new school year!





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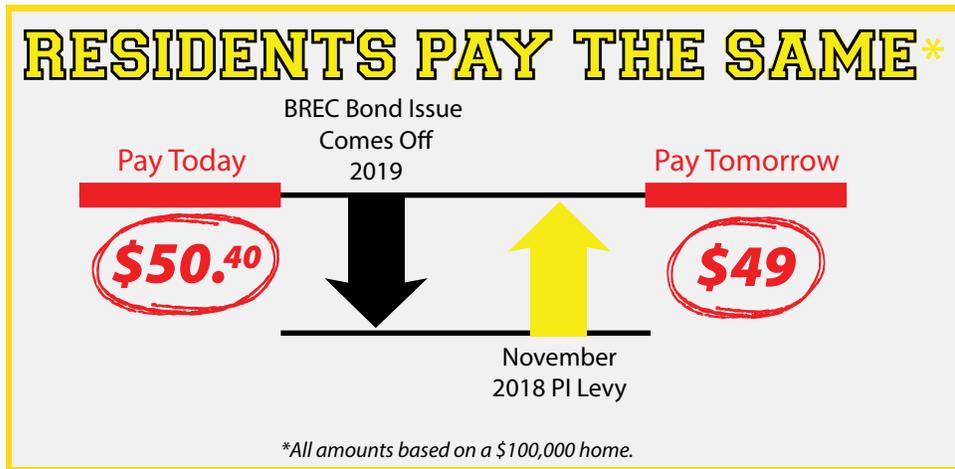
The Black River Local School District will have a 1.4 mill permanent improvement (PI) levy on the Nov. 6, 2018, ballot that **WILL NOT increase taxes.**

In 2019, the district will be able to pay off the bond for the Black River Education Center. The bond currently generates approximately \$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 November 2018 ballot that will **generate the same amount as the bond.**

With a PI levy, the district would be able to use the funds for facility maintenance and improvements without increasing 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.



What is a PI Levy?

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

How will the district use the PI funds?

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

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

Black River Local School District Offers Mental Health Training and Resources

Because the health and safety of our students is our top priority, the Black River Local School District has implemented a number of initiatives and resources to help address the mental health and substance abuse issues that have impacted our community.

During the district-wide professional development days in August, district teachers and staff members took part in an eight-hour Mental Health First Aid course. This course teaches people how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. The training helps participants identify, understand and respond to signs of addiction and mental illness. Additional staff members will receive the training in September and November.

Additionally, this year Black River Local Schools rewrote its MCDAC (Medina County

Drug Abuse Commission) grant to shift its focus to supporting the larger needs of the community. In looking at prevention from a broader lens, the goal is to develop the capacity of our students to cope with and manage the social and emotional challenges that they encounter as students while also helping to better prepare them for their futures.

The purpose of the MCDAC grant awards are to reduce and prevent underage tobacco use, alcohol and illegal substances and illegal substance use and alcohol abuse for all Medina County residents:

- Improve physical and mental health of individual and/or public well-being.
- Reduce the incidence of violence and crime of your target population.

- Reduce incidence of accidents and injuries of your target population.
- Improve the standard of living within your community by improving the level of education, prevention, treatment and law enforcement.

The district has also partnered with OhioGuidestone and Bellefaire agencies to establish school-based mental health services for students and their families at no cost to Black River Local Schools. In addition to providing students with access to qualified prevention and counseling services, the counselors will be able to support the district by providing strategies for supporting prevention and mental health needs.

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 Junior Solar Sprint Members to be Honored at Board Meeting

Two Black River students, Brodie Park and Tommy Rolinc, will be honored at the Board of Education meeting on Oct. 25 in the High School Media Center for competing in the Junior Solar Sprint National Competition.

The students, who are now sixth-graders, competed over the summer against students from across the nation in Atlanta. Junior Solar Sprint is a competition for students to create the fastest, most interesting and best crafted solar-powered vehicle. Students work to design, build and race their cars using hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) skills.

The Junior Solar Sprint team will continue again this year and is open to all fifth-grade students in the district.



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