

# PIRATE PRIDE



**Black River Local School District**

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



257-A County Road 40  
Sullivan, OH 44880  
419.736.3300

## SCHOOL CALENDAR Oct. 2015-Jan. 2016

### OCTOBER 2015

16 NEOEA Day - NO SCHOOL

### NOVEMBER 2015

25 2-Hr. Early Release  
26 Thanksgiving Break  
27 Thanksgiving Break

### DECEMBER 2015

21-31 Winter Break

### JANUARY 2016

4 School Resumes  
18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day -  
NO SCHOOL

### FEBRUARY 2016

15 Presidents' Day  
- NO SCHOOL

### MARCH 2016

21-28 Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

### APRIL 2016

22 NO SCHOOL

### MAY 2016

27 Graduation  
30 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL



<http://www.blackriverschools.org>

## Great Things Ahead!

I am very excited about what lies ahead for the Black River Local Schools. I have referred to our school as the best kept secret in North Central Ohio. We no longer should be the best kept secret. For the past year we have seen many positive changes occur within this district. We have made a dedicated effort at reaching out to our community, to strengthen bonds, building trust and fostering relationships. Many of you have responded when asked to give the district input, and serve on committees. We are listening and working diligently to exceed your expectations. Community Service is a major focus. We are seeking community input into four key areas that we believe will help guide our district operations. These four (4) key areas are in: Communication, Technology, Facility Improvements and Maintaining Student Enrollment. We are looking for community input and involvement in these four committees. Our staff have become more united in our effort to be exceptional. Hard work and a true commitment to maximize our efficiency remain at the forefront of our daily work. I am very proud of our employees.

Our district has worked to make good on a promise to the voters to set aside a portion of the Emergency Levy funds and create a permanent improvement fund. We have tried to stretch these dollars and make capital improvements in the district that will assist in the education process. The district has also secured funds utilizing grants and funding options with support groups in the community. The district obtained funds using a House Bill 264 project. The requirements of the House Bill require the district to go through an energy audit. At the conclusion of the audit, a recommendation is made where the district is in efficient in our energy consumption. The district then has the opportunity to do energy upgrades and obtain a large guaranteed savings. We are reinvesting the guaranteed savings into upgrading the Heating and Cooling system in the High School. This will allow the High School to have more consistent temperatures year round and make the environment more conducive to learning.

We want your child to feel safe and secure at school, not only physically, but emotionally as well. Along those lines, we continue to work and find anti-bullying programs, Students and parents are encouraged to report to staff any safety concerns. Parent support of our effort to maintain a safe learning environment in the Black River Local School District is appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns about safety or school procedures, please contact your building principal.

As you read the Treasurers page, you will learn about the fiscal responsibility we have demonstrated over the past few years, enabling us to extend the life of our last levy. After several years of staff and program cuts, we have managed to temporarily stabilize our budget. We now hope to provide this community with fiscal stability through 2018, while maintaining a high degree of quality programming and the type of school district this community seeks and deserves.

I hope you see and feel the excitement and potential for the school district and community that I do. These are uplifting times. With community involvement, engagement, and support, great things lie ahead.

**Chris A. Clark**, Superintendent

## TESTING UPDATE

Per the new law, Ohio will cease the use of PARCC tests in mathematics and English language arts. Instead, the Ohio Department of Education will use our existing contract with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) – which currently provides online science and social studies assessments – to provide Ohio's math and English language arts tests. The new tests will use the same testing platform and other services that AIR already provides to Ohio. These will be Ohio's tests and will align to Ohio's standards. They will also be shorter and offered during one testing window. Due to the change in the legislation, Ohio will have a new test schedule which is being developed and will be posted soon.

## OHIO GRADUATION TESTS

All test windows are open to all students required to take the OGT (these would be students in grades 11 or 12 who have not already passed the OGT as sophomores).

## GIFTED UPDATE

This year we will be identifying gifted students in the areas of specific academics, as well as music and art. Parents, teachers or students may nominate any student who they feel may qualify. Whole grade level testing will occur in grades 2 and 4 in early September. For information about Black River's current program and/or a nomination form for referrals, please visit the district website and click on the gifted/talented link.



## Welcome Back Black River Families!

I am looking forward to another great year here at Black River! I hope that everyone had a restful summer and had the chance to make some great memories with your family. As we look ahead to this school year we have added a public preschool that works with students ages three through five. This preschool program is in addition to our integrated preschool program which also works with students ages three through five. Early intervention is very important and we strive for our students to be prepared for kindergarten. One of the high school teachers will be teaching a college level course on education. The students in her classroom will be completing field experiences in the preschool classrooms which involves observing and working with preschool age students as they strive to become educators in the future.

We are excited to have added some members to the Intervention Specialist team. I feel that they will bring some new and fresh ideas to the classroom. Our staff who are skilled and accomplished in their area of intervention will be looking at learning about and implementing new positive behavior interventions to use in the building and the classroom. Teachers will also be learning new ideas and ways to implement co-teaching models in the classroom.

During the 2014/2015 school year, the elementary building made some changes to the response to intervention teams and procedures. These changes were very positive and contributed to good decision making for our students that involved teachers, parents, related service providers and administrators. We will continue to work on our response to intervention teams and make improvements in this area.

Again, I am looking forward to a great school year! As always we love to have parents and families be involved in their child's education and decision making. If you would like to volunteer in your child's school building or classroom, please contact your child's teacher or the office. For more information about Pupil Services and Black River please check our website at <http://www.blackriverschools.org/>

**Angelique Kuba**, *Director of Pupil Services*

## Dear Black River Community:

Thank you so much for the invitation to join the Pirates team as the new district curriculum director.

The last twenty-three years have afforded me an opportunity to work with children in a variety of ways. These include high school and junior high school teacher, alternative school director, and elementary principal.

As curriculum director, I am responsible for the overall leadership of the district's curriculum and professional development. Specifically, I will lead Black River in these areas:

- **Support classroom teachers** by providing counsel and assistance and monitoring student progress.
- **Work with administrators and teachers** to develop instructional strategies and a professional development program.

- **Assist teachers** in selecting and evaluating textbook and supplemental materials and equipment.
- **Keep the district current** regarding instructional legal requirements and mandates as well as effective teaching and learning practices.
- **Review district curriculum** and curriculum maps.

I will work closely with the building principals, special education director, and superintendent on our continued journey to provide the best learning opportunities possible for our students.

My office is located in the administration building and I can be reached at [jbeiser@blackriver.k12.oh.us](mailto:jbeiser@blackriver.k12.oh.us) or 419-736-3300 x 106. Thanks for welcoming me to Black River. Go Pirates!

**Jill Beiser**, *Curriculum Director*

# BLACK RIVER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Elementary School

Welcome back to the start of the 2015-2016 school year! There are many new things to celebrate in Black River this year as well as programs that remain intact! New this year, we have Chrome Book carts to rotate in grades 3, 4 and 5. Students in these grades will be learning new skills on these computers. We also still have iPads for each student at grades K-3.

There are many ways to get involved at the elementary building. The Pirate Parents are always ready for new members and plan fun events for students. Last year they had the Harlem Wizards, Get Moving Night and other family events! We also had book fairs, Right To Read Week, the father and daughter dance as well as a mother and son event planned by the elementary staff. We welcome volunteers in the classrooms here at Black River. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office or a teacher to set it up.

Our focus is academics but we want to make sure we offer ways to have a well-rounded education. We offer art, music, physical education and library/technology time each week to students. Our 5th graders can



learn to play an instrument with our instrumental (band) teacher. We try to challenge all students at the appropriate level to enable them to reach their full potential. We strive to make the school a safe and fun place to learn so all students feel it is a home away from home. Good citizenship is also promoted with our Good Citizens of the Week recognition and also peer leaders in grade 5. All students should feel safe, accepted and valued at Black River Elementary School!

**Becky Luth**, *Elementary Principal*



## Black River High School

Welcome to the incoming freshmen class as well as the new and returning students this year. We are thrilled with the changes that have come to our building this year! We have been working hard to update the high school and prepare for our new programs for an excellent year. We have many exciting academic and extracurricular opportunities. Get involved to enrich your experience here at Black River High School!

Gaining Velocity! This summer has been a flurry of activity as we have been upgrading many features of our building. Removing the asbestos in the ceiling and replacing it with a "dropped-ceiling" has allowed us to upgrade its infrastructure to facilitate a modern educational environment. The high school will continue these improvements throughout the year as this building continues on its amazing transformation.

We are proud of our students and aspire to bring out the full potential of your child. We continue to expand our educational opportunities to personalize our students' learning experience. Helping students focus on college and career pathways provides them with the training to become independent, world class members of society – reaching their full potential. Lastly, our tradition of excellence remains as we reach new heights here at Black River High School. Go Pirates!

**Martin Yoder**, *High School Principal*

## Middle School

Now that school is underway, I am thrilled to say that this is my 11th year with Black River Schools. It is with great privilege and pride that I serve this community.

Black River campus improvements are exciting to behold and the improvements remind us we are heading in a positive direction as a school district. At the middle school, we are developing new opportunities through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and high school credit options. Middle school is an important stepping stone on a student's individual pathway to career and college. We know our classes will challenge, engage and prepare students for high school and beyond.

There are many new faces in new spaces across the middle school building. Mr. Bush has been trained in Project Lead the Way curriculum and teaches our new science design and modeling class as well as an exploration of automation and robotics. Mrs. Poznako works with students to develop necessary technology skills in our new technology electives. We have several new teachers. Mr. Sleggs conducts our instrumental music program and returning alumna, Miss Rector, draws on her Visual Arts degree to design art lessons to engage our middle school students. Mr. Dennis teaches physical education and will coach a variety of Black River sports.

Let's make it the best year yet!

**Tammy Starkey**, *Middle School Principal*



**Black River Local School District**  
 257-A County Road 40  
 Sullivan, OH 44880



[www.blackriver.k12.oh.us](http://www.blackriver.k12.oh.us)

## From the Treasurer

Black River Local School District ended fiscal year 2015 with an unencumbered cash balance of \$1,973,845. This result is due to the district's aggressive budget cuts, restricted spending and an increase in tax revenue. However, even with the passage of an 8.7 mill emergency operating levy on May 7, 2013, the district will be deficit spending by 2018.

The School District receives approximately 57% of its operating revenue from the State through Foundation (unrestricted and restricted), Casino Revenue and Property Tax Allocations. Local taxpayers provide about 38% of our operating revenue and the balance comes from tuition, open enrollment, investment interest and rents.

As would be expected, wages and benefits make up the majority of our operating expenditures, approximately 71%. (According to information provided by the Ohio Department of Education, 76% is the statewide average.) Purchased services make up about 23% of total spending for Black River. This category includes, utilities, tuition, open enrollment, occupational

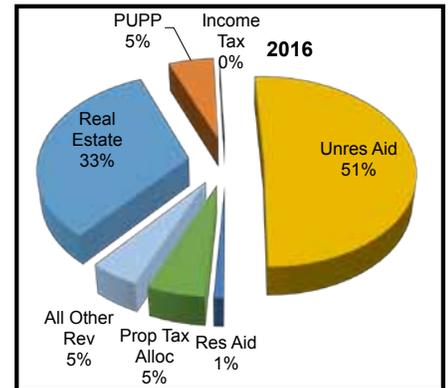
therapy, physical therapy, contracted services, legal fees and leases. Supplies and materials along with other expenses make up the balance.

While it appears from the information given above that the district is spending nothing in the category of capital outlay, that is not the case. The Board of Education transfers funds out of general operating and into a permanent improvement fund for those expenses. In the past two years, the district has spent approximately \$684,000 to make some badly needed repairs to our buildings and grounds. Additionally, the district has, on average, \$250,000 of Medina County Sales Tax funds available each year for the purchase of technology, buses and textbooks.

The Board of Education and Administration work diligently to provide the students of Black River an exceptional education with the funds made available by the State and the generosity of the Black River community.

**Connie Hange**, *Treasurer*

### REVENUE SOURCES



### SPENDING PATTERNS

