

Leetonia Exempted Village School District



# 2024



## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Superintendent's Message .....	2
School Communications .....	2
Community Engagement .....	2
School Board Recognition .....	3
Teaching and Learning .....	3
Messages from our Principals .....	4
Transportation News .....	5
Building & Grounds, Cafeteria News .....	5
Tech Notes .....	6
Facebook, Website .....	6
Academic Calendar .....	7
Dates to Remember .....	7
Directory .....	8

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

January 2024

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Holiday Season. As we embark on a new calendar year, I find myself reflecting on the achievements and growth within our school community. I am immensely thankful for the dedication of our students, the hard work of our educators and the unwavering support from parents and guardians. Parental support plays a crucial role in the success of our students and continued involvement in their education is truly appreciated.



In the past year our students have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their academic and extracurricular activities. Their achievements, both in and out of the classroom serve as a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines our school district. Certainly, one of the highlights of the 23/24 school year is the Leetonia Schools “ICE” (Innovative Career Exploration) program that is being implemented as an after school program for students in grades 7-12. Leetonia Exempted Village School District was awarded a 21st Century Learning Grant from the State of Ohio effective July 1, 2023 through June 20, 2028. The program is highly focused on student and parent engagement and allows the district to provide real world learning opportunities with a focus on career exploration possibilities. Thank you to the Columbiana County ESC for the grant collaboration and strong academic partnership with Leetonia Schools to make this grant a reality.

I genuinely look forward to the second half of the school year and continue to reiterate that we are here, with purpose. Purposely giving our daily best as parents, and daily best as productive citizens in our respective communities. If we continue to resolve to do our very best, each and every day at Leetonia Exempted Village Schools, we will continue to be successful in all we do. The past calendar year witnessed a great deal of academic progress. I am very proud of the continued progress our school system is making and remind everyone of our mission statement, “The mission of Leetonia Exempted Village School District is to provide a superior education, enabling all students to become productive and dedicated citizens in our community and society.”

As we look ahead, let us carry the momentum of our achievements into the New Year. Together, we can build on the foundation of success and achievement. Please join me in welcoming the New Year with an enthusiastic purpose of making Leetonia Schools a great place.

Best Wishes for a healthy and safe 2024!

Dennis J. Dunham

Superintendent

## SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Our goal is to share information with you in a timely manner. We encourage parents and community members to inquire about Leetonia Exempted Village Schools through a variety of outlets: Leetonia School Facebook and Instagram Pages, Leetonia EVSD Website @ [www.leetonia.k12.oh.us](http://www.leetonia.k12.oh.us), Saturday Communication’s Coffee Club, All Calls, Emails, Phone Conferencing, Parent Access/Progress Book and Newsletters.

The Safe School Help Hotline is designed to assist students and parents in reporting any wrongdoing that impacts our schools, students or our staff anonymously. To report a concern over the Safe School Helpline, just call from a touch-tone phone to 1-800-4-1-VOICE, ext. 359 (1-800-418-6423) to leave your information. Your message will not be traced and you will not be identified. The Safe School Helpline team will transcribe and fax your message to school officials so appropriate actions can be taken. Additional questions may be directed to Officer Webb, Leetonia EVSD School Resource Officer at 330-427-6594.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Leetonia Schools Family Fun Festival, the Holiday Bear Breakfast, Leetonia Schools Summer Learning Series, Before and After Care Program, Holiday Concerts, Leetonia Light Up Night and miscellaneous grade level activities are just a few of the initiatives that brought Leetonia Schools and the Leetonia Community together over the past calendar year. It is vital we develop and nurture partnerships with families and staff to share, reinforce, cultivate and adapt to the values and the traditions of our district and community.

## January is School Board Recognition Month!

The following members will be recognized at the January Board of Education meeting for their service as we celebrate “School Board Recognition Month” in January.

Mrs. Jennifer Merritt—Board President, 2 years of service

Mr. Michael Henderson—Vice President, 10 years of service

Mr. Larry Duko, 10 years of service

Mrs. Marilyn Heddleson, 1 year of service

Mr. Dan Votaw, 8 years of service

Thank you to Mr. Dan Votaw for his 8 years of service to Leetonia Schools as Mr. Votaw’s term on the Board expired December 31, 2023.

Congratulations to Mrs. Marilyn Heddleson and Mrs. Michele Votaw whom were elected to serve on the Leetonia Board of Education on the November 7, 2023 election.

Celebrating School Board recognition month is one way to say thanks for all they do. Serving as a link between the community and class room, School Board members care about children and give back to our community. Thank you for your service!



## TEACHING AND LEARNING

I continue to be very excited about the work being done to enrich our academic experiences for our children. Significant progress is being made academically in both the K-6 and 7-12 grade bands.

Ohio’s State Report Card was released earlier this fall. The state report card has recognized six different measures for each school district in Ohio. This important information provides the district with data to develop and plan for instruction for the year. After looking at current data, we measured our performance with last year’s performance as well as other local district’s performances. The Leetonia School District **Exceeded State Standards on the 2022-2023 Ohio School Report Card.**



This year’s report card contained an overall rating of **Four (4) Stars** for the 22/23 school year. The report card used a component rating of a star system (1-5 stars) rather than letter grades. Leetonia Schools witnessed significant progress in Achievement (4 stars), Progress (4 stars) and Gap Closing (5 stars) and Graduation Rate (4 stars). The early literacy component of 3 stars improved from 2 stars in 21/22 for an overall rating of 4 stars! Overall, the district improved in fifteen (15) of the twenty (20) tested areas from the 21/22 school year to the 22/23 school year. Congratulations to our students, staff and school community for an excellent report card.

I attribute much of the success to our entire staff for their endless commitment to continuous improvement. The staff, students and building level leaders have demonstrated increased engagement in academic improvement over the past calendar year.

## LEETONIA 7-12 JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL FAIRFIELD



The start to the school year has been a huge success. Our students did a great job embracing some of the changes they faced when they returned in August. In addition to a change in leadership at the principal level we welcomed several staff changes. Mrs. Vittori, Mr. Istnick and Ms. Matejka all stepped into positions that were vacant from last year and have become an integral part of the Bear Family. Mrs. Mary Rice returned as a 9-12 school counselor. Our staff has been busy implementing several initiatives from last school year including utilizing our enrichment period to provide content assistance and social emotional learning opportunities. We were happy to have celebrated some of the positive strides the school has taken when we received our school report card earlier this year.

We continue to offer our students a well rounded education by providing opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. Our students are able to take advantage of clubs and activities including music, robotics, e-sports, athletics and numerous clubs and student organizations. We have added a youth wrestling club to our offerings and it has shown initial success. Our students are also benefiting from a grant based program called ICE (Innovative Career Exploration). We truly have so much to offer our students.

Finally, our school community has had to mourn the loss of one of our own with the recent passing of Mrs. Long. I was impressed with the support our staff, students and community showed in lifting each other up in a time of tragedy. It really showed me what a family the Leetonia school community is. In addition to her role as a teacher Mrs. Long was our robotics coach. That team has chosen to continue to participate in competition to honor Mrs. Long.

I want to personally thank our staff and students for their continued hard work and dedication as we continue through this school year.

Mr. Fairfield  
7-12 Principal



## LEETONIA K-6 ELEMENTARY

### A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL DUNNIGAN

The Leetonia K-6 staff worked hard with our Positive Behavior System (PBIS) to decrease negative behavior and increase positive behavior within our classrooms and school. The Elementary school received a bronze award from the State of Ohio and will continue to work toward the next level of Silver. Our hard work and dedication from our staff and students is well noted.

Professional Development continues to be a big part of increasing test scores. We will continue to teach with rigor with our Math Series, Bridges grades K-5. We continue to work on increasing our Literacy scores through Professional Development within our Building Leadership Teams and our Teacher Based Teams. We are working to increase our writing scores on the State Testing by incorporating a writing program grades 3-6 and will continue using the writing format we have developed for grades K-2. We are also continuing with our MTSS process to help struggling students within the curriculum as well as the social/emotional side. We have seen growth and success in our students within the process.

The students and staff at the Elementary have worked very hard in continuing to strive for excellence and academic success for all students.

Mrs. Dunnigan  
Elementary Principal



## TRANSPORTATION NEWS— MR. DANO FAVAZZO

The Transportation Department is still in the process of fine tuning the many devices and programs that we implemented last school year to improve the safety of our students and the efficiency of our operations. We have recently made some improvements in the parent application, Stopfinder, and all of these systems seem to be fully operational.

We are utilizing the student ID cards again this year. They were distributed to all of the K-6 students and all assigned bus riders in grades 7-12. These cards are required to make all of this software function correctly so we appreciate your help making sure your students have them ready when they board the school bus.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we continue to work through the bugs in the new technology and we do our best to complete every route and trip in a safe and timely manner. If you have any questions, concerns or any transportation needs please feel free to contact the Transportation Department at (330) 427-2445.



## BUILDING AND GROUNDS— MR. DANO FAVAZZO

Our custodians have continued to keep the building and grounds clean, well maintained and disinfected this year. With all of the illnesses going around this time of year, we have been fogging and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces on a regular basis as well as completing our normal cleaning routines. If anyone is interested in joining our substitute list please contact the Maintenance Department at (330) 427-2445.

## CAFETERIA NEWS/FOOD SERVICE —MS. KELSEY KELLER

The year is flying by! We've had a lot of new things this year in the Cafeteria. Our reduced students are free of charge this year and the State of Ohio is accepting Medicaid as a qualification for Free or Reduced Lunches. These perks have been such a blessing. Our Elementary School is receiving a fresh fruit or vegetable snack twice a week in hopes of trying new items and creating better fruit and veggie eaters at lunch time. It is quite a hit with the group! The Cafeteria is working hard daily to provide the best meals possible to our students, so a special thanks to them!

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!



## TECHNOLOGY NOTES

### MR. RYAN CLAPSADLE

#### District Communications (text/sms)

Leetonia Exempted Village School District is now using text/sms messaging for important announcements and notifications including snow/calamity days.

If you or someone you know would like to opt-in for messaging, please follow these instructions:

Text the word “tec” to 64085, and you will receive the following message:

“You have requested to subscribe to The Education Connection texting service.” To complete your opt-in, reply “YES” to this message.

If you have previously opted out and would like to opt back in:

Text: “tec subscribe all” to 64085

Then, text “tec” to 64085

Finally, reply “YES” to the message you receive

#### Chromebook Care

Leetonia Schools has made a very significant investment in Technology for students. Every student is provided a Chromebook, case and charger. You can help protect this investment by doing the following:

1. Keep your Chromebook charged.
2. Transport the Chromebook in the case provided.
3. Bring your charger to school every day.
4. Keep it clean, don't eat or drink near your Chromebook.
5. Don't stack things on the Chromebook.
6. When you close the lid, be sure there are no objects on the keyboard.
7. Do not remove the inventory sticker from the case or the Chromebook.



If you do have a problem or break your Chromebook, tell your teacher. Then, turn it into the office and fill out a repair form. Most repairs are made the same day.

Like us on Facebook to receive up-to-date information on important dates, and special activities going on at the District.



Also visit the website at [www.leetonia.k12.oh.us](http://www.leetonia.k12.oh.us)

# Leetonia Exempted Village School District

## 2023-2024

### Academic Year Calendar

August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

#### Notes

Aug 17-18 - Staff PD Welcome Back  
 Aug 21 - First Day for Students  
 Sept 1-4 - Labor Day/No School  
 Oct 26 - Parent/Teacher Conference  
 Oct 27 - No school  
 Nov 22-27 - Thanksgiving Break  
 Nov 27 Staff PD, Students off  
 Dec 20 - Jan 1 - Christmas Break  
 Jan 2 - Staff PD, Students off  
 Jan 15 - MLK Day, No School  
 Feb 16 - Parent/Teacher Conference  
 Feb 16-19 - No Schl/Presidents Day  
 Mar 29 - Apr 2 - Easter Break  
 May 21 - LAST DAY FOR SENIORS  
 May 24 - Last Day for Students  
 May 24 - GRADUATION  
 May 28 - Last day for teachers

Semester 1 - Aug 21 - Jan 12

Days 88

Semester 2 - Jan 16 - May 24

Days 89

Quarter 1 - Aug 21 - Oct 26

47 Days

Quarter 2 - Oct 30 - Jan 12

41 Days

Quarter 3 - Jan 16 - Mar 15

42 Days

Quarter 4 - Mar 18 - May 24

47 Days

Created using a template from [www.vertex42.com/calendars](http://www.vertex42.com/calendars)

## 2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

### EXTENDED BREAKS

CHRISTMAS DEC 20 – JAN 2

EASTER MAR 29 - APR 2

### CONFERENCE NIGHT

FEB 15

### NO SCHOOL

JAN 2 JAN 15 FEB 16 FEB 19

### GRADES PUBLISHED

JANUARY 19

MARCH 22

MAY 31

### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

SENIORS MAY 21; K-11 MAY 24

### GRADUATION

MAY 24

Leetonia Exempted Village School District

K - 12 Campus  
450 Walnut Street  
Leetonia, OH 44431  
Phone: 330-427-6594  
Board Office Fax 330-427-1136  
Nurse Fax: 330-427-6904  
www.leetonia.k12.oh.us



Leetonia Exempted Village School District

450 Walnut Street  
Leetonia, OH 44431  
(330)427-6594

**Elementary K-6**

Mrs. Jackie Dunnigan, Principal

[jdunnigan@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:jdunnigan@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

Mrs. Ruth Cerrone, Secretary ext 31140

[rcerrone@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:rcerrone@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Technology**

Mr. Ryan Clapsadle, ext 31126

[rclapsadle@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:rclapsadle@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

**Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)**

Mr. Tim Fairfield, Principal

[tfairfield@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:tfairfield@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

Ms. Christa Stark, Secretary ext 31144

[cstark@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:cstark@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Food Services**

Ms. Kelsey Keller, ext 31136

[kkeller@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:kkeller@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

**Transportation Department**

Mr. Dan Favazzo, Supervisor ext 31137

[dfavazzo@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:dfavazzo@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

**Board Office**

Mr. Dennis Dunham, Superintendent

[ddunham@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:ddunham@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

Ms. Leisa Lorch, Secretary ext 31010

[llorch@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:llorch@leetonia.k12.oh.us)

Mrs. Jennifer Coldsnow, Treasurer

[jcoldsnow@leetonia.k12.oh.us](mailto:jcoldsnow@leetonia.k12.oh.us)