

TIGER TALES

FALL 2022



Dr. Laura Kagy, Superintendent

Message from the Superintendent

We are now a couple of months into the 2022-2023 school year and what a start to the year it has been! I have always said there isn't a district quite like Seneca East and it's because of you, our amazing community.

You helped us kick off the year with a bang with our annual Tiger Classic held on Aug. 27. This marks the kickoff of the cross country season. More than 70 schools, 250 teams and 2,300 runners participated.

You have also given a warm reception to our new staff, including assistant administrator Jennifer Scott and middle and high school principal David Danhoff. I'm excited to see how these individuals, along with our new teachers and support staff, will help advance the Tiger legacy.

This past summer, we upgraded several of our spaces, including our lobby, track, gymnasium, and preschool to create a more welcoming environment for the Seneca East community, improve safety and our student experience, and expand educational opportunities. One feature of our new lobby is a Hall of Fame wall. It is designed to recognize the outstanding achievements and meritorious service to the district

of our Seneca East alumni, athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators, staff, and community members. Visit the news section of our website to nominate someone. Our first Hall of Fame class will be announced later this year.

September 11th is a day we will never forget. In addition to our annual Stars, Stripes and Lights cross country meet, Seneca East observed the day with a special memorial this year.

Ohio's School Report Cards were recently released, and I am proud to share that Seneca East received 22 out of a possible 25 stars. The report cards look at a district's Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation, and Early Literacy.

Speaking of academics, some of our seniors are already taking advantage of real-world leadership opportunities this school year by participating in the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) program. Students present their ideas, Shark Tank-style, to a panel of judges.

Read more about all of this and more throughout this newsletter. Again, thank you for your support. Seneca East would not be the thriving community that it is without you.

Dr. Laura Kagy
Superintendent

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Seneca East Welcomes New Middle and High School Principal

Mr. David Danhoff joined Seneca East Middle and High Schools this year as the new principal. He is no stranger to education, having worked for the past 45 years as a teacher, coach, principal, career center director, chief of staff, transformation officer, assistant superintendent and superintendent.

He said each position has further solidified his love for helping young people succeed. He's excited about what this year has in store and looks forward to continuing the school's tradition of academic and athletic excellence.



Assistant Administrator Helping Lead Seneca East

Seneca East welcomed Jennifer Scott, the district's assistant administrator, this past summer. She comes to us from Wynford Local Schools, where she worked as an intervention specialist. Scott is currently wrapping up her doctorate studies in Educational Leadership at Ashland University.

Leadership is her passion and she's honored to join the Tiger team.

She said, "Seneca East captivated my attention because of the visible positivity that lies within the district. When you approach the campus, you can't ignore the care that is taken to make this place special for students, staff and community members. The Tiger pride is unmistakable."



Seneca East Pays Tribute to 9/11 in Big Way

Each year, the Seneca East community comes together in a big way to recognize 9/11 and its everlasting impact on our nation.

This year, in partnership with Patriotic Productions, a traveling memorial was on display at Seneca East from Sept. 8-10. The Remembering our Fallen memorial consists of 34 Tribute Towers honoring more than 5,200 military personnel who have lost their lives since Sept. 11, 2001, in The War on Terror.

The memorial was first unveiled on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 2017, and was welcomed by Seneca East with more than 100 flags lining the school driveway and an assembly that was open to the public and students in grades 4-12. The event featured three keynote speakers: Rob Chappell, Tiffin fire chief, Reverend Diane Carter, and Duane Shock, father of fallen Green Springs soldier Lance Corporal Jeremy Shock. All shared messages of unity and hope that followed 9/11.

Sept. 9 marked Military Appreciation Night at our Tiger football game, and the annual Stars, Stripes and Lights cross country meet was held on Sept. 10, and was once again a show stopping event. Seneca East hosted 75 schools, 250 teams, and more than 2,100 athletes from around Ohio.

Special Education Student Identification

In accordance with federal law, Seneca East Local Schools assumes responsibility for the location, identification, and evaluation of all children birth through age 21 who reside within the Seneca East Local School District and who require special education and related services. The Special Education Department

of Seneca East Local Schools coordinates this child identification process. If you know of or suspect that a child may have a disability, you may contact the Seneca East Local Schools Special Education Department at 419-426-3344 or contact the building principal to discuss these concerns and determine a course of action.



The night meet was run under the lights, and centered around remembering 9/11 and recognizing our first responders and local law enforcement. The event featured performances from Seneca East alum Colton Fleure and our Select Middle School and High School Choir. Additionally, many of the participating schools sent a Hometown Hero to represent them on the field, a WWII training aircraft did a flyover, and the event culminated with fireworks.

Events like this would not be possible without the support of our community. Thank you to the 30+ businesses that sponsored the event, the more than 150 volunteers, and of course, our American Legions, first responders and local law enforcement.



Middle School & High School Update

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start at the middle and high schools. Students are working hard inside and outside of the classroom, and our teachers, coaches and advisors are dedicated to giving our students every opportunity to be successful in life. Our learning culture is such that Seneca East continues to be a leader in the region.

Our athletic teams are experiencing great success this fall as well. Namely, we have hosted two large cross country meets with 70+ teams at each meet. As part of our 9/11 recognition, students visited the Wall of Honor and attended an assembly honoring first responders, firefighters and veterans who have served our country. Also, high school students had an exciting homecoming week that culminated in a dance that no doubt left students with lifelong memories.

We are grateful for our staff, students and community, who continue to support our district in providing a first-class learning experience.



Flag Etiquette 101

Fourth grade teachers come together each year to teach students a non-traditional lesson: flag etiquette. This year, students enjoyed demonstrating their knowledge of the flag, Ohio, and the United States. A huge thank you to Jodi O'Million and his colleagues for sharing their expertise and patriotic spirit with the students of Seneca East.



Tiny Tigers Preschool Open and Thriving

Seneca East's all-new Tiny Tigers Preschool officially opened its doors on Sept. 6. Students have gotten down to business learning routines, playing, making friends, reading, coloring, creating, and writing.

"Tiny Tigers Preschool has been THE place to be these first few weeks of school," said Director Matt Schock. "Our entire preschool staff is simply amazing and the students have smiles on their faces from the moment they walk in until the time they leave. It is a truly special place to be and one in which families are so thankful to have access to right here in Seneca East Local Schools."



The motto of the school is "Where Tigers Earn Their Stripes" and that's just what our earliest learners are doing. We can't wait to see how this propels students into their kindergarten year.

Information regarding sign up for next year will be released this winter.



Matt Schock at Helm of New Preschool

Matt Schock, the supervisor of our Tiny Tigers Preschool, is a familiar face at Seneca East. A 2006 alum, he returned after college and has been serving as an intervention specialist for the past 12 years. He also coaches cross country and track and field.

This is his first year in an administrative role with the district. He said he's excited to work with the staff and community to make the preschool a "one-of-a-kind experience for our children."



New Spaces Highlight of New Year

Over the summer, Seneca East transformed its gymnasium lobby and made improvements to the track, gymnasium and preschool. The goal of the renovations was to create a more welcoming environment and a better overall experience for our students.

Local artist Beth Sage of Sagebrush Artistry kicked off the lobby renovation by adding the school's colors to the walls. Then, MLAD Graphic Design Services added etched panels to the State Champions wall showcasing the district's nine state championships. The lobby also features a Hall of Fame wall, Wall of Honor and History wall. The first class of inductees for the Hall of Fame will be announced this winter, while the Wall of Honor pays tribute to the men and women who have graduated from Seneca East and served in the U.S. military. Finally, the History wall includes etched panels of our three previous schools, Attica Elementary and High School, Republic Elementary and Junior High, and Seneca Huron Elementary. The lobby is now a true reflection of the district's history and achievements.

Our student-athletes are already enjoying the resurfaced track and newly painted gym floor. Additionally, the classrooms at our all-new Tiny Tigers Preschool were completed just in time for the start of school.



Input Welcome Regarding Children With Disabilities

Title VI-B funds are federally allocated dollars for the exclusive benefit of children with disabilities. Input as to how best to utilize these funds for Seneca East Local Schools is welcome. For more information or to share ideas, please call 419-426-3344.

Now Accepting Nominations for Hall of Fame

This winter, Seneca East will announce its first class of Hall of Fame inductees. The Hall of Fame is designed to recognize the outstanding achievements and meritorious service in the school district of Seneca East alumni, athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators, staff members, and community members. This includes those who served Attica and Republic High Schools which were part of our district until the Seneca East merger in the fall of 1970.

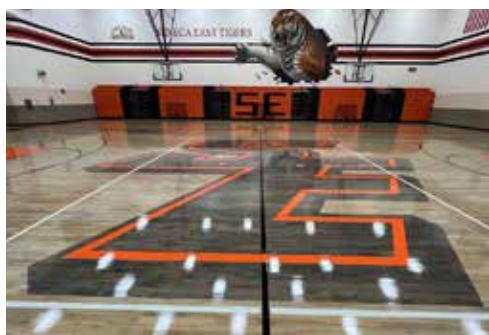
To be selected, the individual must have significantly distinguished themselves from others in a positive way. Community members will be considered for their contributions and commitment to our schools even if they did not graduate from the district. A student/athlete must have graduated at least six years before being recognized, and a team must have a minimum six-year span from the year of competition.

For staff nominees, at least two years must have elapsed since their last day of employment in the district. They also must have demonstrated good citizenship while enrolled or employed in the district, and lead/have led a positive life after their enrollment or employment as determined by the Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

The nomination form is available on social media and the district website at se-tigers.com. The deadline is Nov. 30. Inductees will be included on the all-new Hall of Fame wall in the gymnasium lobby.

Fall Conferences

Want to know how your child is doing so far this school year? Connect with their teacher(s) on Thursday, Nov. 10 or Thursday, Nov. 17 between 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. for our fall conferences. If you are not available during the regular fall conference times but would like to meet, please reach out to your child's teacher(s).



From the Treasurer's Desk:



Last May, Mary Jane Brakeall, former treasurer at Seneca East Local Schools, passed away at the age of 82. Mary Jane started as the treasurer at Seneca East in April of 1993 and retired on September 30, 1999. For the next year she stayed on as a consultant in the treasurer's office helping train me for the position. Her knowledge

and accounting expertise made my transition to this position go very smoothly. She was very helpful in teaching me the role and responsibilities of the treasurer. She stressed paying attention to detail and keeping organized. Her suggestions and explanations on how and why to do things in the treasurer's office have proven to be very helpful over the years.

Mary Jane was very caring and wanted to make sure things were done correctly for Seneca East Local Schools. Her care and concern for Seneca East showed again this past May when the Seneca East Board of Education received a copy of Mary Jane's will from Brent Howard, an attorney at Supance and Howard in Tiffin. In Mary Jane's will she included Seneca East Local Schools, along with other community and civic organizations that had touched her life, as a beneficiary. This gesture shows how much Seneca East and the community meant to her. I encourage you to read about her life here: <https://www.foosfuneral.com/obituary/Mary-Brakeall>

She was such a sweet and positive person despite all the tragedies she encountered in her life.

Field Trips Return

After a long hiatus as a result of the pandemic, elementary field trips are back! So far this school year, our fourth graders have participated in the Ohio Heritage School Day event at Hedges-Boyer Park in Tiffin. Additionally, kindergarteners enjoyed spending an afternoon at Pickwick Place in Bucyrus where they took part in fall activities and traveled through a corn maze.

Students Celebrate Start With Hello Week

Students in grades K-8 learned how to be more socially inclusive and connected with one another through the school's Start With Hello Week, held Sept. 19-23.

Start With Hello teaches three steps to be more inclusive:

1. See someone alone
2. Reach out and help
3. Start with hello

Staff had fun coming up with activities that included everyone throughout the week. Students in grades K-4 watched Recess



New Staff Members



Justin Drennen
High School
Health & P.E.



Kacie Kihorany
Preschool



Brittney McMahon
High School
Spanish



Kate Nagel
4th & 5th Grade
Intervention
Specialist



Brandon Perkins
Bus Driver

Excellent State Report Card Leads to Seneca East Receiving Exempt Status

Ohio's School Report Cards were issued in mid-September, and Seneca East received 22 of 25 possible stars. This led to the district earning exempt status, meaning we can operate in an atmosphere of increased autonomy over the next three years.

This is the first time in two years that report cards have been issued as a result of the pandemic. The traditional A-F rating system was changed to a five-star rating, with one being the lowest (needs support) and five being the highest (significantly exceeds). Here's how Seneca East stacked up in the five categories in which schools are rated:

Achievement - 4 stars

Progress - 3 stars

Gap Closing - 5 stars

Graduation - 5 stars

Early Literacy - 5 stars

A school district must receive at least 85% of the total possible points for their Performance Index score and have a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of at least 93% and a five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of at least 95% to be granted an exemption by the Ohio Department of Education.

The district will be exempt from action under the state report card requirements for the next three years, beginning with this school year. Specifically, the district will be exempt from things like the teacher qualification requirements under the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee and minimum or maximum class size.

While we are proud of this achievement, Seneca East is committed to continuing its legacy of excellence. Additionally, while the district met state standards in the Progress category, which measures the growth all students are making based on their past performance, we know we can do better. In the coming months, we will dive deeper into the data to determine an improvement plan.

Thank you for your support in making Seneca East an exempt-worthy district!



on the Moon, an interactive book about being inclusive, and a Luau Lunch provided beach-themed music and games.

On Wednesday, everyone wore green as a symbol of unity and solidarity with Sandy Hook Promise, and Thursday was Hey Day, where everyone designed a name tag to wear for the day and were encouraged to say hi to someone they didn't know.

Middle school study hall students had the chance to go outside to play kickball, kan jam, or choose their own activity, and they had a great time outside. The week concluded with a lemonade stand at lunch to celebrate Tiger pride!

Each day, a different group, including cheerleaders, Kindness Club, the cross country team, and football players, greeted staff and students. This was the second year in a row of Start With Hello Week and it shows no signs of stopping!



Holly Pozderac
Preschool



Cody Scott
High School Math



Martha Senn
Food Service



Chris Spencer
Preschool Aide



Courtney Stockmaster
Preschool Aide



Mimi Todd
Mental Health Counselor



Hannah Wagner
Elementary Art



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Seneca East App

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 [www.instagram.com/
senecaeast/](https://www.instagram.com/senecaeast/)

 twitter.com/SenecaEast

A is for ART

Middle and high school students recently showcased why Art is a valuable addition to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics). One student shared their experience on the Mythbusters team, while others shared successful filming/production projects they have worked on.

This year's homecoming Spirit Week incorporated the Arts as well. One of the days was Anything But a Backpack Day, in which students used microwaves, snow cone machines, baby seats, crockpots, and more to carry their school items throughout the day.



State Testing Requirements Changing Beginning This Year

Beginning this school year, students must “Demonstrate Competency” and “Demonstrate Readiness” through state testing requirements to graduate.

To demonstrate competency, students must earn a score of 684 on both the ELA2 and Algebra I end-of-course exams. Students who don't earn a passing score on the first attempt can retake the test at least once or they can use alternative ways to reach the graduation requirements, such as earning college credit in a math or English course, or meeting the requirements to enlist in the military, among other things.

Students must show that they are prepared for college or careers by earning two of 12 diploma seals created by the state to meet the demonstrating readiness component of the graduation requirements. Seal options range from an Industry-Recognized Credential to Technology, Honors, and Citizenship.

To learn more about these new graduation requirements, visit education.ohio.gov and search for Graduation Requirements at the top of the homepage.