



Continental Local Schools



Board of Education Members:
Dean Bidlack Ron Bradford
Brian Donaldson Robin Etter
Derek Heitzman

**5211 St Rt 634
Continental, OH 45831
419-596-3671
#ProudtobeAPirate**

**Superintendent: Danny Kissell
High School Principal: Tim Eding
Elementary Principal: Tracy Potts
Treasurer: Katelyn Adams**

From the Desk of Mr. Kissell, Superintendent...

#ProudtobeAPirate

January was "Ohio School Board Appreciation Month". Continental is blessed to have had and have a very dedicated people who serve its community and school.

At this time I would like to give a special shout out to Chad Olds and Mike Zachrich who both just finished a combined 24 years of serving the children of Continental. If you happen to see Chad or Mike, please thank them for their efforts in serving our children and community.

Although this is only my fourth year at Continental, I have been in education for 26 years. I can tell you that although the work of a board member is done quietly and without recognition, it is not easy work. I decided to use this newsletter to introduce to you our current board of education. Please take a moment to thank our current board for their hard work and if you know of someone who has served in the past, please thank them as well. If you would like to know more about what a board of education does, please visit:

<https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/>

CHECK IT OUT!

While you are here, don't forget to check out the high school and elementary sections of this newsletter. ***OUR STUDENTS ARE AWESOME AND ARE DOING AMAZING WORK!***

Continental School District Celebrates School Board Recognition Month

Continental School will join more than 700 school districts throughout Ohio to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

Our school board members are citizen-servants who shoulder critical responsibilities and often make difficult choices for our district, all with minimal pay. Their focus is always on the future success of the children in our district. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do.

Board members serving the Continental School District are:

- Dean Bidlack, 18 years of service
- Ron Bradford, 14 years of service
- Brian Donaldson, beginning first term
- Robin Etter, 10 years of service
- Derek Heitzman, beginning first term

It is more important than ever that communities support public education so that today's students are prepared to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow. Please take a moment and tell school board members 'thanks for caring about our children and giving so much to our community.' Let them know we support them and that their dedicated service is recognized and truly appreciated.



Board Members Left to Right: Ron Bradford, Brian Donaldson, Robin Etter, Derek Heitzman, and Dean Bidlack.

A short bio about yourself...

Introduce yourself, achievements, family, etc:

My name is **Ron Bradford**. My wife, Mindi, and I were born and raised in Continental and have raised our three children (Dalton, 25; Grant, 24; and Brooke, 19) here as well. I am a lifelong "Cooper Trooper" having worked at Cooper Farms for my entire 28-year career.

Notable achievements as a board member or otherwise:

I have served on the Continental board for 14 years and have also served on the Vantage board, as Continental's representative for 12 years. We have been fiscally responsible at both Continental and Vantage, as both districts are in financially stable situations. We have also been able to pass a couple levies at both Continental and Vantage. I was also part of the Vantage building project that resulted in a beautiful, state of the art facility.

What motivates you to be a board member?

To do what is best for the children of the district. I am very proud to represent our district and feel the administration and staff truly do put the needs of the children first.

What is your vision for Continental Local Schools?

Continuous improvement! To be better today than yesterday and better tomorrow than today!

A short bio about yourself...

Hello CHS community! My name is **Robin Etter**. I have been a lifelong member of the Continental community. I attended Continental School and graduated in 1990. After graduating high school, I went on to receive my Associates Degree in Legal Office Administration from Lima Technical College, which is now Rhodes State College in Lima. Immediately after graduating from college I began working at Central Insurance Company in Van Wert, where I was an executive secretary for the manager of the IT department/company CEO. As much as I enjoyed my career, family came into the picture and I decided to stay home with my children. I married my husband Jeff in 1994, and we have three children. Ross is 23; Jamie, 20; and Carson, 14. Ross and Jamie have both graduated from CHS, and Carson is in the 8th grade. We have truly been blessed raising our family in this small, caring community. Jamie, who was born with Cerebral Palsy, has been mainstreamed at Continental from the beginning. She has blossomed here. We could not have asked for a better school "family" for her. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and our Pirate village has been as wonderful for her as she has been for them. I wouldn't trade raising our family in this little community for anything.

I have been on the Continental School Board for 10 years. I initially decided to run for a seat on the board, simply to be involved in the important decisions that affect all of our children, and to understand everything that goes into making a school successful. One important thing I believe I have brought to the board is the understanding of the special needs portion of our school. I feel having a parent on the board who truly understands the needs of these children, and who can educate others is important. I have had such a great relationship with Jamie's teachers and administration. I think we have all benefited from each other.

The growth of our school, and being a part of that, is what keeps me motivated as a board member. It's exciting to see progress in student scores and achievements. It is also great to see our school grow financially and technologically. Districtwide, I feel we are continuing to move forward. Knowing that not only my children, but possibly my grandchildren, will benefit from what Continental has to offer, is exciting for me to think about.

My vision for Continental Local Schools is simple. I would love to keep opening doors for our children and giving them every tool they need to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way. I want our children prepared when they graduate. I want them prepared with the technical skills they need if they choose to enter the workforce right after high school. And for those that choose college, I want them to have a smooth transition, being prepared with the classes necessary to help them be successful. I want our children to be good people. Respect for others and character is as important as anything learned in the classroom. From the classroom, to athletics and the arts, I want nothing more than for our children to graduate as well-rounded young adults, now and in generations to come.

I would like to thank the community for the support you show for our school. As I said before, it takes a village to raise a child. We couldn't do what we do without everyone's support. I look forward to continuing to serve CHS. Always a Pirate! God bless everyone, and have a wonderful year!

A short bio about yourself...

My name is **Derek Heitzman**. I am a 1999 graduate of Continental High School and a 2003 graduate of Trine University with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. I am a licensed Engineer and Surveyor in the State of Ohio and am employed at the Putnam County Engineer's Office as the Deputy Engineer. I also farm with my parents and siblings. My wife, Joy, owns Modern Eyecare in Continental and together we have three children; Dane, Louisa, and Rosalie.

This is my first year as a board member at Continental and I am looking forward to working for the taxpayers in the school district. My motivation for being a board member comes from wanting to serve the community and school district. I would like to see the community and school thrive hand in hand to strengthen each other and make them better places. My vision for the school district is to maintain financial stability and offer the best possible educational experience to our students.



A short bio about yourself...

Introduce yourself, achievements, family, etc:

My name is **Brian Donaldson**. I am a CHS graduate from the class of 2006. I have a Doctorate of Pharmacy with minor in Business Administration from Ohio Northern University 2012. I am married to my amazing wife of six years, Sarah, who is also a CHS alum (2008) and we have twin boys, Zachary and Lucas who are now two years old. We love to go on day trips and spend time together.

Notable achievements as a board member or otherwise:

I am a newly elected board member so I have no notable achievements to date with the board. Professional achievements include spending the last three years as a District Manager with Rite Aid Corporation in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, where I oversaw all daily operations of a multi-million dollar business. I feel like this experience has taught me how to drive best in class results through teamwork and cooperation while maintaining accountability.

What motivates you to be a board member?

I strongly believe that the school system is a direct reflection of the town for which it serves. I love this town and community and all the great things we have going on and want to ensure that future generations of Pirates continue to receive the support I was blessed to receive. I want to ensure that our students and educators have the tools and resources needed to succeed not just with mandated standardized testing, but life in general. Whether that be secondary education or the workforce, my goal is for every CHS graduate to be prepared for what is next in their life. The job market changes rapidly and it is our school system that is in the best position to ready our students for what comes next.

What is your vision for Continental Local Schools?

My vision of Continental Local School's does not change from the current Mission Statement of the school district: "Continental Local Schools are committed to the fullest development of every student's unique talents and abilities. We strive to provide all students with a foundation for lifelong learning. We encourage students, parents, and the community to join as partners in this commitment." As a community, we have shared accountability in the success of our school district and every one of its students. I am excited to start this journey to help with preparing the next generation of Pirates for this game called life!

A short bio about yourself...

Introduce yourself, achievements, family, etc:

My name is **Dean Bidlack** and I have been a Continental School Board member for 18 years. My wife, Betty, and I have lived in the Continental school district since 1979. Betty is a Continental Alumni, as well as all four (Toby, Nathan, Brandy & Taylor) of our children. I have served on this board with excellent school board members in the past, as well as the present. I would like to continue serving the Continental community in the best manner possible.

I have been a Safety Consultant Specialist with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the last 35 years. I was an original member of the Public Employee Risk Reduction Advisory Committee (PERRP) and served for 13 years. We governed the Public employee OSHA program for Ohio's public employees.

I understand the Ohio Public Employees rules and regulations as related to our staff. I have been a public employee and many of these rules apply equally in my current occupation. These help me understand the challenges that face our school district and how these rules affect our school employees.

I believe that all our students can learn given the correct form of stimuli. Public school systems do not always enjoy a level playing field when compared to other choices.

We have assembled an excellent teaching and supporting staff members at Continental Local Schools. We have weathered some very challenging fiscal times and now are able to make decisions that will lead to a better teaching of the curriculum. We do not simply make emergency choices as to what we can afford.

I feel that the school board has the responsibility to provide the best and most well-rounded school experience possible to the Continental students and working environment for our staff. We all must be held accountable by the voters within the Continental community, to do so within the fiscal resources allocated for our school system.

Continental Local School District

Mission Statement

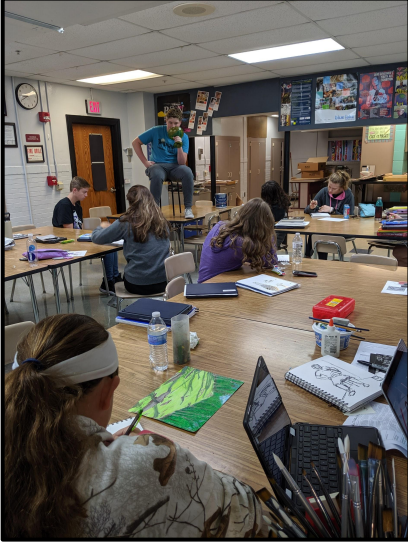
Continental Local Schools are committed to the fullest development of every student's unique talents and abilities. We strive to provide all students with a foundation for lifelong learning. We encourage students, parents, and the community to join as partners in this commitment.

Vision Statement

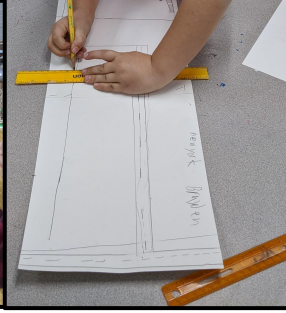
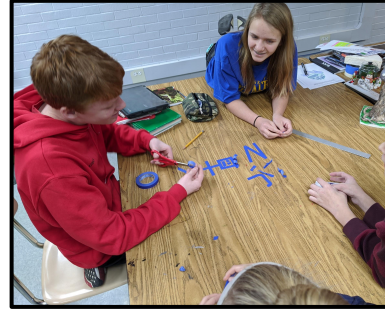
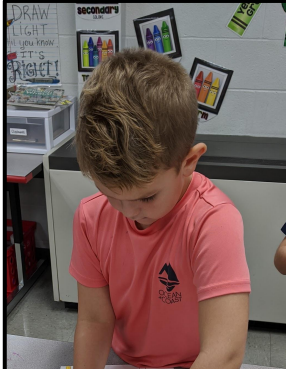
All students in the Continental Local School District will demonstrate, in a variety of ways, that they have achieved a high level of academics and are excited about learning in a safe, comfortable accepting environment.

Belief Statement

We believe that all children can learn.



K-12 ART

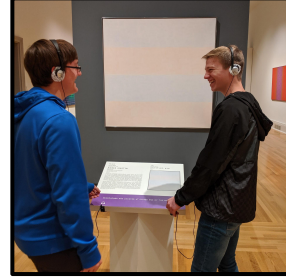


Upcoming Events Continental Local School

- Feb 4 All "A's" Night at Varsity Girls Home Game vs Wayne Trace
- Feb 7 Senior Night for Boys Basketball
- Feb 13 Senior Night for Girls Basketball
- Feb 17 Presidents' Day - No School
- Feb 20 ACT for Jrs. at American Legion
- Feb 23 Band Booster Brunch Fundraiser at Legion, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Mar 2 HS Band/Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 2-6 Scholastic Book Fair @Elementary
- Mar 8 Putnam County Fine Arts, Leipsic HS, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Mar 12 Spring Lange Pictures, Pre-Gr 6
- Mar 13 Staff Prof. Dev. Day - No School
- Mar 16 Winter Sports Awards, 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 17 ELEVATE Career Day, Leipsic Community Center
- Mar 19 Student Council Red Cross Blood Drive

No School:
Mon., Feb 17, Presidents' Day
Fri., March 13, Staff Prof Day

HS Art Classes visit Toledo Art Museum



From the Desk of Mr. Eding, JH/HS Principal...

Follow the JH/HS Building on Twitter
@Pirates_CHS and @CHSAthleticDept



They excel. They serve. They lead. They succeed. This year thirteen students have met the requirements for Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character and gained membership into their chapter of the Nation Honor Society. Kaitlynn Keller and Gannon Prowant were inducted on October 1 into the National Technical Honor Society at Vantage and on December 4, Jensen Armeij, Annika Bowers, Wyatt Davis, Andrew Hoeffel, Gavin Huff, Lillie Nienberg, Lexi Ordway, Madelyn Potts, Sierra Salinas, Brooklyn Smith and Kiya Wiggins (shown in the above picture) were inducted into the local chapter of the National Honor Society. Mr. Nathan Schmidt was the honorary inductee this year. Congratulations to all!

Congratulations to the winners of the *Mission: Contamination* story contest! Young Writers USA sponsors story contests for middle and high school students, asking them to write short stories of 100 words or less. Mrs. Martinez and Mrs. Manon decided to have staff members pick the winners from our own students' entries. The winners are: third place, Peyton Stauffer with her story "It's Not Safe!", second place, Gwenyth Blevins with "The Infection," and first place, Olivea Coble with "From the Double Barrels." Good luck to our winners and all the students who entered the contest!





FCCLA, which stands for **Family Career and Community Leaders of America**, is one of Continental's school organizations. On October 22nd, Continental's FCCLA traveled to Ottoville Parish Center to attend the District Meeting. Nineteen of Continental's students attended the meeting. The theme of the meeting was called "Your Story" and focused on the idea of suicide awareness and prevention. Each of us has a story to tell and it is important that we understand our story is not done yet. We were also taught that we control our own story, and that we can lift others up and keep them going, along with ourselves.

At the District Meeting, each school brought in items to donate to Family Promise of Lima-Allen County. Family Promise partners with families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by helping them get back on their feet so they can create a stable lifestyle for their children.

Students also learned of different methods to cope with stress, such as Yoga, and were taught about suicide awareness and prevention. During the district meeting, we had a talk about counseling, what to do in different scenarios and learned how to adapt to many different mentalities. The presenter was a clinician from Cornerstone of Hope in Bluffton. Students also made bracelets with the semicolon symbol, a common suicide prevention symbol. In literature, an author uses a semicolon to represent a sentence the author could have ended, but chose not to. The semicolon is to remind us that our story is not over.

During the meeting, a district president was elected to guide the association into wisdom, prosperity, and enlighten others to have a positive impact in people's lives. We shared many of our own personal FCCLA story's and got to know one another. There were many different amazing and inspiring guest speakers to help us learn that our story is not over, and to allow yourself and others to keep living, and make each new day count.



**From the Desk of Mrs. Potts,
Elementary Principal...**

Christmas is often thought of as the season of giving. In December, the students at Continental Elementary took part in raising money to benefit families of Putnam County. The students raised money for Christmas for Kids, a program initiated by the Marine Corp League #758 out of Defiance and I Heart Radio. The program offers assistance to families in need at Christmas and throughout the year.

Several years ago, former kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Retcher, started a Christmas for Kids campaign with her kindergarteners. Back then her students did chores around the house to earn money. This year, the students at Continental purchased tickets for raffle baskets to raise money. The raffle baskets were donated by various staff and student groups.

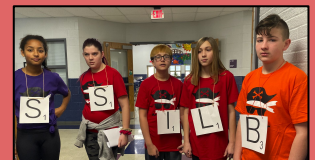
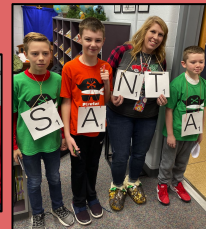
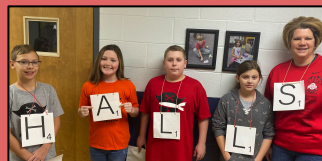
Overall, Continental Elementary School donated \$3,600 to the Christmas for Kids program.



PBIS News

Each month the house with the most crew cards receives a reward. The RED HOUSE won for the month of December and they had "Donuts with Grown-ups" on Friday, January 10.

Scrabble Challenge



**Golden Ticket Winner
2nd Nine Weeks
Lillian Combs**

Makerspace News

Supplies (cardboard, containers, yarn, ribbon, tape, paper, tongue depressors, etc.) can be dropped off at the elementary office anytime.