

# POINTS OF PRIDE

457 SHELBY-ONTARIO RD.

ONTARIO, OHIO 44906

KEITH STRICKLER, SUPERINTENDENT

419-747-4311

*Ontario Local Schools*



## THE WARRIOR WAY

December 2023





# 2023 STATE REPORT CARD DATA OVERVIEW

**T**HE STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION AT ONTARIO LOCAL SCHOOLS ARE extremely pleased with the state report card data. A large focus has been on the Performance Index score, as we believe that measure shows the most accurate picture of how all of your students are performing. This year we scored a 94.4 on that measure, which was the highest score in Richland County. We are grateful to our students, parents and teachers for all of their efforts to support quality education.

Unique to Ontario Local Schools is our support of gifted and accelerated students. Starting in fifth grade, we have accelerated students that are performing at a high level in various subject areas. There are approximately 25-30 students in each grade level who are now taking a state test that is above their assigned grade level. This challenge and opportunity has allowed our accelerated students to flourish.

One under-appreciated aspect of the school report card is the financial component. **Ontario schools spends the lowest amount per pupil in the county, by a wide margin. From a business perspective, getting high-end results for the lowest expenditures is a point of pride for our district.**

Ultimately, we view the state report card as just one piece of a much larger educational picture. We take pride in our results, but we will always prioritize the needs of students above a data point.

**Performance Index:** *The Performance Index measures the test results of every student, not just those who score proficient or higher. Schools and districts receive points on the index for every student who takes a test.*

## PERFORMANCE INDEX

School District	Performance Index Score	Performance Index Percentage
Ontario (Highest)	94.4	86.7%
Lexington	94.3	86.7%
Shelby	89.7	82.5%
Lucas	87.5	80.4%
Crestview	85.2	78.3%
Clearfork	86.6	79.6%
Madison	82.3	75.6%
Plymouth	86.9	79.9%
Mansfield	64.6	59.4%

## OPERATING SPENDING PER PUPIL

School District	Operating Spending Per Pupil
Ontario (Lowest Spending, \$2,889 per student less than the state average)	\$9,007
Lexington	\$10,139
Clearfork	\$10,158
Madison	\$11,670
Shelby	\$11,494
Mansfield	\$13,307
Crestview	\$13,570
Lucas	\$14,079
Plymouth	\$11,670

## OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2024-2025

Ontario Local Schools will begin accepting applications for Open Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year on Friday March 1, 2024 on the school website at [www.ontarioschools.org](http://www.ontarioschools.org). Fill out the application online under the Parents tab.

A separate application is required for each student applying in this program, and every student must apply yearly. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to complete and submit the Open Enrollment Application(s).

POINTS OF PRIDE



# A FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

By Randy Harvey

As Treasurer of the Ontario Local School District, it has been my priority to operate with integrity, fiscal responsibility, and transparency. In this effort, you can review the Ontario School's financial plans for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

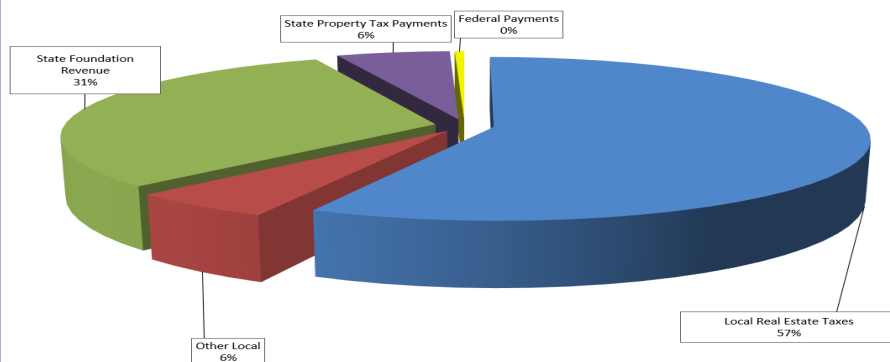
I look forward to communicating with you, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (419) 747-4311 or [harvey.randy@olsohio.org](mailto:harvey.randy@olsohio.org).



## ONTARIO SCHOOLS FINANCIAL REPORT

### FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

#### 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND REVENUE

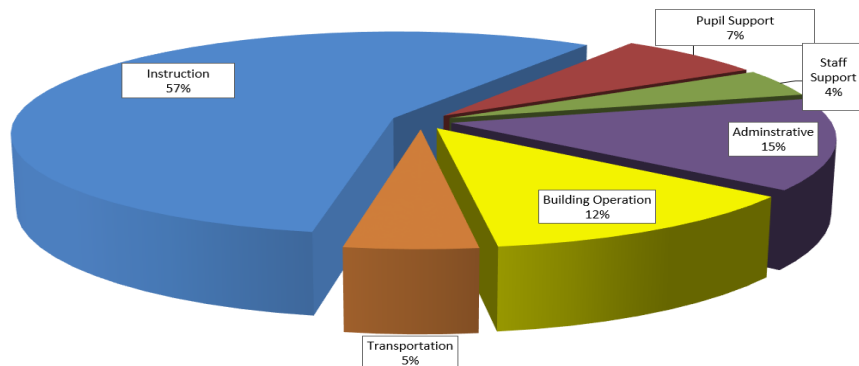


#### REVENUES

Local Real Estate Taxes	\$11,447,364
Other Local	\$1,104,283
State Foundation Revenue	\$6,266,041
State Property Tax Payments	\$1,136,142
Federal Payments	\$95,105

**TOTAL REVENUES** **\$20,048,935**

#### 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



#### EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$14,579,184
Services	\$2,522,638
Supplies	\$636,980
Capital Expenditures	\$361,274
Other	\$463,595

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$18,563,671**

June 30, 2022 General Fund Cash Balance \$7,139,575

June 30, 2023 General Fund Cash Balance \$8,624,839

*\*The General Fund Cash Balances Exclude Advances*





## 2024-2025 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION AT A GLANCE

Registration will begin February 1, 2024. Start by filling out Final Forms completely on the Ontario School District website, choose the 2024-2025 school year.

After the forms are completed, a developmental screening will be scheduled.

At this appointment, please bring the following documents:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Ontario Residency (i.e., utility bill [electric, gas, water], lease/mortgage agreement)
- Custody Papers (if applicable)
- A current Physical or Well-Check After Visit Summary
- Most recent Dental Form/ Waiver will need to be on file prior to start of school.

Should you have any questions about Preschool, please call Stacy Crawford, Preschool Director, at 419-529-4955 or visit our website on the Stingel Elementary page.

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
8:40 a.m.-11:40 a.m.  
**MORNING CLASS**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
12:40 p.m.-3:40 p.m.  
**AFTERNOON CLASS**

## PLACEMENT PRIORITY FOR PRESCHOOL

*The order applications are received does not determine priority.*

### PRIORITY PLACEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

#### Ontario Residents

1. Resident special need students
2. Resident students who are returning Preschool students
3. Dependent children of Ontario resident staff members
4. Resident 5-year-old students not going into Kindergarten
5. Resident 4-year-old students
6. Resident 3-year-old students

#### Tie-breakers will be

1. Sibling of a registered Preschool student
2. Order of received registration

#### Non-Residents will then be considered based on

1. Dependent Children of Non-Resident Ontario Staff Members
2. Open Enrollment Students



## PREPARING FOR KINDERGARTEN

- ➔ Put on and zip a coat and bookbag
- ➔ Put backpack on a hook without assistance
  - ➔ Count to 10
  - ➔ Recognize 13 letters
  - ➔ Recognize colors and shapes
- ➔ Share and cooperate with a same-age peer
  - ➔ Open items in a packed lunch
  - ➔ Recognize name in print
- ➔ Use the restroom independently

## BENEFITS OF PLAY

Playing is critical to child development, and what adults are often quick to term “just playing” actually helps children develop cognitively, physically, and emotionally. For example, being able to cross the midline while drawing shapes or cutting with scissors helps children learn how to read across the page. Measuring in the sand/water table helps students recognize volume and capacity. Learning to cooperate and share develops citizenship. These small acts of playing can translate to big educational gains. From the Stingel webpage, follow the Preschool link to access **PLAYING AND LEARNING RESOURCES**.



# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## EARLY CHILDHOOD GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

### FINE MOTOR SKILLS

*The use of hand-eye coordination, manipulation of objects, and visually crossing the mid-line of the body.*

#### Ideas to build these skills:

Use play-doh to build; stack blocks; button shirt/coat; zip a zipper; hold and use a fat marker/crayon using a pincer grasp; draw a circle, square, and a plus sign.

### GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

*The use of the large muscles, such as the ability to be able to cross the mid-line, as well as balance and coordinate large muscle movements.*

#### Ideas to build these skills:

Play outside; run, jump, hop, gallop, skip; climb stairs/ladders; use the slide; catch a ball (larger sizes first, then move to smaller as they get older); walk on a balance beam; keep a balloon in the air.

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS

*The ability to express needs and wants, ask for help, answer simple questions, use words to express emotions (such as frustration or sadness), understand verbal directions/commands.*

#### Ideas to build these skills:

Answer simple questions about a book that was read to them; label colors, shapes, and some body parts, household objects, and familiar people; understand pronouns (he, she, they, you, us); state their first and last name and tell their age; describe objects (blue block; big blue block); understand questions (what, where); respond to directions (1-step and 2-step).

### COGNITIVE SKILLS

*The acquisition of academic skills that is experienced through play.*

#### Ideas to build these skills:

- **Math:** Size (big/small), volume (water in a bucket, measuring cups, etc.) rote counting, number recognition.
- **Science:** Cause/effect, learning through nature (apples, pumpkins, etc.), hands-on experiments.
- **Social Studies:** Community, family, school.
- **Literacy:** Letter recognition, writing concepts, speaking.

### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS

*The capacity to interact with peers and understanding emotions.*

#### Ideas to build these skills:

Turn-taking with adults and peers; understand and accept no; wait their turn; play board games.



## 2024-2025

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration begins  
Thursday, February 1.

➔ Office open from 4:30-7:30 p.m. on **February 1 and 8** for those working during the day.

➔ Anyone enrolled by March 31, 2024 will receive a free Ontario Kindergarten T-Shirt.

Complete the Final Forms available on the website. After the completion of the online forms, come to the Stingel Elementary office beginning February 1, between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Please bring your child's birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization record, and any related custody papers. To enroll in Kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before August 1, 2024. A developmental screening will be scheduled for August at the time of registration.

## ONTARIO RESIDENTS ONLY





# ONTARIO STINGEL ELEMENTARY

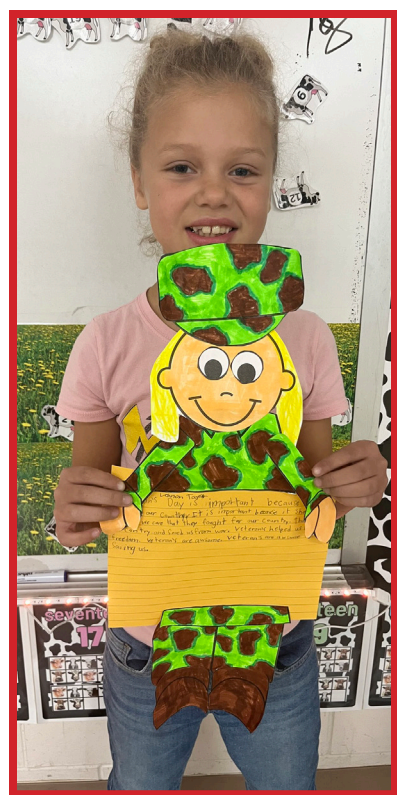
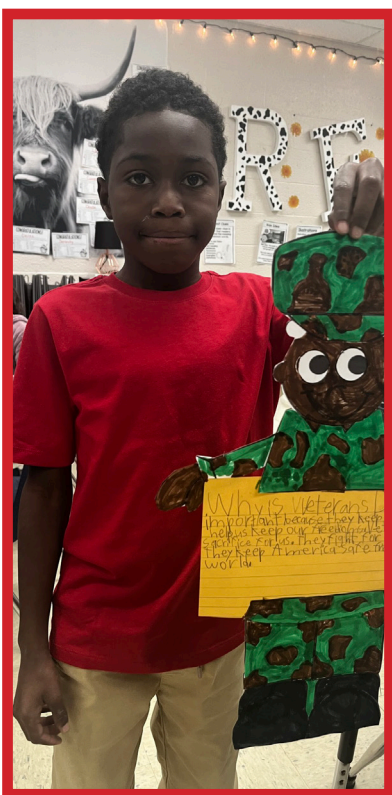


## A PARTNERSHIP TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Stingel Elementary partnered with the Ontario Lions Club to hold an eyeglass drive, where students brought in gently used eyeglasses to donate to the Lions Club. Stingel collected over 170 pairs of eyeglasses. Congratulations to Mrs. Jolin's class for collecting the most eyeglasses. The Lions Club had a pizza party for Mrs. Jolin's class. Through the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, used eyeglasses are collected, sorted, washed, and evaluated for prescription strength. It is a privilege to partner and serve with the Lions club.



## HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY







KIMBERLY JOHNSON, PRINCIPAL  
STACY CRAWFORD, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
PRESCHOOL TO 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



## IT'S A GLOW PARTY

Stingel received the Silver Award for Ohio's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Recognition System. Each year, the Ohio Department of Education and the PBIS Network recognize schools and districts for their quality and fidelity of PBIS implementation. We are excited to receive this award and are continuing to work on following the Warrior Way: Being Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn. Students are doing a great job in all areas.

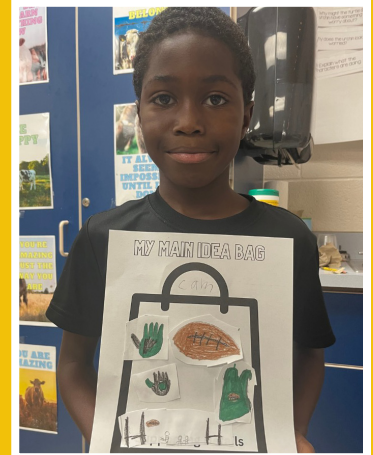
Students who follow the Warrior Way are able to participate in monthly celebrations. In September, students played kickball. In October, they had a Glow Party, and in November, students played Turkey Bowling.



## READING & WRITING SUCCESS

We are in our second year of implementing *Foundations* at Stingel. *Foundations* utilizes a structured literacy approach grounded in the science of reading to make learning to read fun, while also laying the groundwork for lifelong literacy. It is research-based, structured reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum that is engaging and uses multisensory techniques.

This year, we have also begun implementing *The Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum*. It is a daily phonemic awareness lesson that is fast, effective, and fun. Students are participating in both programs and are able to use the skills to improve their reading and writing.



## OUR HEROES OUR FRIENDS

As part of Fire Prevention Week, local EMT and fire personnel stopped by to show students their vehicles and emergency safety equipment. Ontario Local Schools encourages our families to implement safety practices to prevent fires and make plans in case of a fire.





# ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL

## AN INSPIRING JOURNEY: *From Academic Watch to a Model of Excellence*

**I**N A PRESENTATION AT THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (OSBA) CAPITAL CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 13, ONTARIO Middle School staff shared their transformative journey from a school once on Academic Watch to a beacon of educational excellence in Ohio. Attending the conference were Keith Strickler, superintendent and former middle school principal; Chris Miller, current principal; Tianna Keinath, educational consultant for gifted students from the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center; and Annalee Stover, a math teacher at the school. These individuals outlined the steps and strategies that led to this turnaround. The key to Ontario Middle School's success has been a fundamental shift from a "teach-to-the-test" mentality to a focus on growth and acceleration for all students. Beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year, the school introduced accelerated pathways in Science and Reading/English Language Arts, followed by Math in the 2022-2023 school year. These pathways have allowed students to engage more deeply in their education, moving at a pace that suits their individual needs and showcases their growth.

This focus on acceleration has had profound impacts. For students, it means increased engagement and the ability to advance more rapidly, opening up greater opportunities in high school and beyond. Teachers are now following a more rigorous curriculum and are rewarded with higher scores from the State of Ohio. This approach has not only benefited the students and teachers, but also the entire district, leading to happier students, staff, families, as well as improved performance index points and a notably enhanced district report card.

As a result of these efforts, Ontario Middle School is no longer on Academic Watch. Impressively, it now ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the state for gifted performance. The transformation of Ontario Middle School illustrates the power of a cultural shift in education. As Superintendent Strickler stated, "We get a lot of joy from seeing the growth in kids on a daily basis. It is why we do what we do." This sentiment echoes the wisdom of John F. Kennedy, who said, "A rising tide lifts all boats."

Ontario Middle School's journey is a testament to the power of focusing on growth and the potential of every student. It serves as an inspiring example of how a change in mindset and approach can profoundly impact a school's culture, performance, and most importantly, the lives of its students.



# ONTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL

A photograph of three people standing in front of a display of posters. On the left is a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a blue sweater. In the center is a young woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a white shirt, holding a large, colorful peace poster. On the right is a man with a beard and a red cap, wearing a dark jacket. The poster they are holding features a globe with hands holding it, and the words 'PEACE' and 'DARE TO DREAM' are visible.

Sixth grade students took part in the Dare to Dream Peace Poster Contest sponsored by the Lions Club. The overall winner of the contest this year was Emma Boor. Her work will move on to a regional competition and represent the Ontario Lions Club and Ontario Middle School. Contest runner-ups include Phebe Hipsher, Aileen Steiding Mora, and Sylvia Burns. Great job Warriors!

**We ask you to join us in congratulating these Warriors  
and all of their outstanding work!**





CHRIS MILLER, PRINCIPAL  
JORDYN ECKERT, DEAN OF STUDENTS  
GRADES 6-8

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS



**THE OMS ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE** to thank Parker Willis for his commitment to the daily announcements. Parker is responsible for the entire process, from recruiting daily anchors, collecting the announcements, recording, editing, and scheduling. Announcements are then played on the website and over the PA. Parker uses his free time to provide the announcements at OMS. Thank you, Parker!

## TRADITIONS OF EXCELLENCE

**O**NTARIO MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES STUDENTS WHO CONSISTENTLY display the Pillars put forth by the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Recognition System (PBIS). PBIS reinforces **The Warrior Way Pillars**, which are **Grit, Honor, and Integrity**. Students are issued points for displaying those character traits throughout the day and then redeem those points for prizes twice a month. Some students save their points to purchase larger incentives, while other students enjoy buying small prizes every other week with their points. The OMS staff is proud to celebrate students who do the right thing each day.

### WHAT ARE GRIT POINTS?

Students earn three Grit Points for each class where they arrive on-time and prepared to learn. The school has experienced better period attendance rates than in years past by incentivizing their attendance. Students can earn additional Grit Points throughout the day for working hard, being self-disciplined, and going above and beyond to achieve academic and social goals throughout the day.

There is also a contest in each grade level. During study hall, or Warrior Time, the class with the highest number of Grit Points accumulated at each grade level wins the "Grit Chain" for the month. Along with winning the Grit Chain, students earn a free Warrior Time with OMS administration.



Mr. Canfield's Grit Chain



Mrs. Johnson's Grit Chain

Ontario would like to recognize our very own choir director, Megan Hiler, and her participation in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. In addition to performing, she also took part in a wreath laying ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial and advocated on national news for music education. Congrats Mrs. Hiler! You exemplify Warrior Pride.



## ON THE HORIZON

*Student scheduling for 2024-2025  
will begin in January.*

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 14**  
**OMS Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
*February 8 & 15*  
*from 4:00-7:30 p.m.*

**Presidents' Day February 19**

**Early Release March 8 & 14**

**Spring Break March 29 - April 5**

**Remote Learning Solar Eclipse April 8**  
**Early Release May 2**



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SCHEDULING

**F**OR THE UPCOMING 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR AT ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL, STUDENTS WILL BE TASKED WITH CRAFTING their class schedule throughout the months of February and March. The courses they choose will significantly shape their high school experience, influencing their educational journey. In February, students will receive a comprehensive course offering guide. It is imperative for them to thoroughly examine this guide, paying special attention to sections outlining graduation and college requirements, course prerequisites, programs of study, and career planning. To ensure well-informed decisions that align with individual needs and interests, students will have opportunities to seek guidance from school personnel. These discussions are designed to steer students toward academic choices that align with their long-term goals.

Ontario High School Guidance Office:  
419-529-7010

Newsletters and information are available at:  
<http://www.ontarioschools.org/Guidance/HS.aspx>



### FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

Current eighth grade students and their parents are invited to an informative session about scheduling classes for the freshman year, understanding graduation prerequisites, and exploring co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities throughout their four years at OHS. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. and will take place in the auditorium.

### 2024-2025 SCHEDULING DATES:

#### **FRESHMEN: Class of 2028** (Current 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- **February 8:** Freshmen Orientation in High School Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
- **February 23:** Incoming freshmen submit course requests

#### **SOPHOMORES: Class of 2027** (Current 9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- **March 4:** Sophomores submit course requests

#### **JUNIORS: Class of 2026** (Current 10<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- **February 22:** Juniors submit course requests
- **February 23:** Pioneer applications due

#### **SENIORS: Class of 2025** (Current 11<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- **February 23:** Pioneer applications due
- **March 6:** Seniors submit course requests

#### **COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS**

- **April 1:** Deadline to apply for CCP courses both in the high school guidance office and to the college issuing credit for the course.
- Students must apply to the college or university where they are interested in taking the course.
- Students must qualify for CCP courses by taking a placement test or by meeting a qualifying score on the ACT and cumulative GPA.
- Check with your guidance counselor for specific requirements for each CCP course.





CHRIS SMITH, PRINCIPAL  
JONATHAN KING, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
JEFF FISHER, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR  
GRADES 9-12

## THE WARRIOR SCHOOL SPIRIT



Ella Shaffer earned the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association Leadership Award, bestowed by the Ohio Army National Guard on behalf of Girls Soccer Division II in Ohio. This recognition was granted to Ella in acknowledgment of her contributions to the high school soccer community, showcasing leadership attributes such as teamwork, integrity, dedication, and respect during her tenure as a member of the Ontario girls' soccer team. She is the daughter of Tony and Crystal Shaffer. Congratulations Ella!

Students enrolled in the recently introduced College Credit Plus Oceanus course at OHS took a field trip to Old Woman's Creek. The curriculum delves into the examination of physical, chemical, geological, and biological resources, exploring ocean-atmosphere interactions and addresses contemporary global environmental issues.



The Warrior Leadership Council expressed gratitude to Veterans and those presently serving in the Armed Services, recognizing their unwavering dedication and service to both others and our Nation by hosting a breakfast and a parade for the school and community.

### END-OF COURSE (EOC) TESTING:

**T**HE EOC TESTING SCHEDULE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR IS provided below. Attendance at school is mandatory only for students enrolled in the classes being tested on each given day. The testing format involves Part I in the morning and Part II after lunch. Students not involved in the EOC tests are excused for the day and are not required to be present at school. On days with a 2-hour delay for testing, buses will operate at their regular time for students reliant on them to reach school. These students should report to the commons area until the designated testing time.

- **April 15 ELA II**  
(Regular Bell Schedule & Report Time)
- **April 23 Biology**  
(2-Hour Delay Schedule)
- **April 25 American History & Government**  
(2-Hour Delay Schedule)
- **April 29 Algebra 1 & Geometry EOC**  
(2-Hour Delay Schedule)

### ACT TESTING

- **March 5:** Pre-Registration for the ACT. Juniors (including Pioneer students) will report to school and be called down after announcements to pre-register.
- **March 12:** All Juniors will be given the ACT free of charge by the state of Ohio. Juniors will report to school, take the ACT, and then be released after testing for the remainder of the day.
- All other students will be on their regularly scheduled school day.



Ontario Local Schools  
457 Shelby-Ontario Road  
Ontario, Ohio 44906-1029

Non-Profit  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Mansfield, OH  
Permit No. 1

