

# SOUTHEAST LOCAL SCHOOLS

*The Waynedale community is united in our commitment to developing Lifelong learners by meeting each student's social, emotional, and academic needs*



**Board Members:** Valorie Lewis, President ~ Matt McKelvey, Vice President  
Dave Troyer ~ Rick Reynolds ~ Brian Miller

SPRING 2024

## A Message from the Superintendent....



### ***A Year of Growth and A Look Ahead...***

Dear District Families,  
As we approach the end of another school year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared. This year has been one of both challenge and triumph, filled with moments of learning, growth, and unwavering dedication from our students, staff, and families.

One of the most significant milestones we achieved this year was the exciting prospect of our upcoming consolidation into a brand new, state-of-the-art facility. This project represents a major investment in our students' future. The new building will provide a modern learning environment designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and academic excellence.

### **Transitioning to a New Home**

We understand that any change, even a positive one, can bring questions and concerns. We are committed to ensuring a smooth and seamless transition for everyone involved. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

- **Open Communication:** We will continue to provide regular updates through FinalForms and website postings.
- **Planning and Preparation:** Our dedicated team is meticulously planning the logistics of the move, ensuring a smooth transition to the new learning environment.
- **New Building Open House:** We will be hosting tours of the new building and information sessions on **August 10, from 9:00-12:00**, to familiarize everyone with the facility and answer any questions you may have.

This new chapter signifies a significant step forward for our district. It's a testament to our collective commitment to providing our students with the best possible educational experience.

## ***Looking Forward***

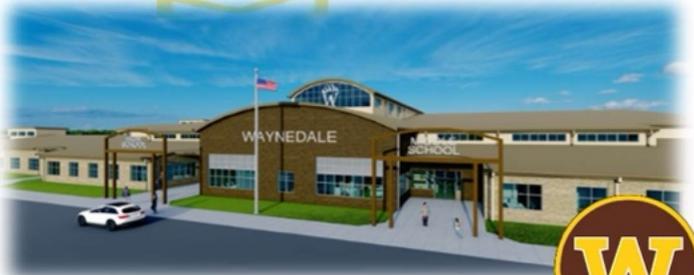
We are incredibly excited for the new opportunities this consolidation presents. The new building will not only offer modern learning spaces but also foster a stronger sense of community within our school district.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are building a bright future for our students.

Sincerely,

James J. Ritchie  
Superintendent

## SOUTHEAST LOCAL SCHOOLS



**Waynedale  
Local Schools**



# SOUTHEAST LOCAL BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS



Apple Creek



Fredericksburg



Holmesville



Mt. Eaton



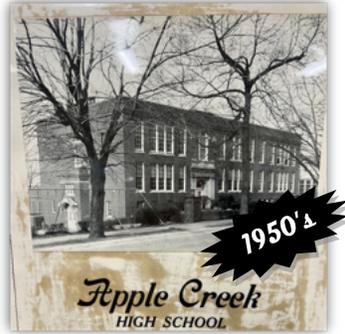
John R. Lea



Waynesdale

## Apple Creek Elementary

Apple Creek High School first opened its doors in 1922, nestled in the heart of Apple Creek. Since then, it stood as a beacon of learning for students in 1st grade through 12th grade. Renowned for its commitment to academic rigor, students also enjoyed athletic and extracurricular opportunities. The Apple Creek Aces participated in friendly yet competitive basketball games between the community schools.



Over the years, numerous transformations within the school's infrastructure led to changes in many of its rooms. The initial expansion at Apple Creek occurred in 1933 and introduced additional classrooms on all 3 floors. Subsequently, in 1965, a second addition brought four more classrooms along with supplementary rooms. The last building expansion, completed in 1989, encompassed the cafeteria, library, three additional classrooms and a handful of smaller rooms.

Over the course of its history, Apple Creek High School has celebrated 33 graduating classes. Notably, the Apple Creek Historical Society proudly showcases images of the most recent 22 graduating classes, highlighting the rich history and achievements of the school within the community. When the district consolidation occurred in 1955, Apple Creek became an elementary school for 1st graders through 8th graders. Half-day kindergarten classes were added in the 1950s and held in the basement of the school. This very space now serves as the location for music classes for students today.



A notable achievement that began during the 1972-1973 school year was the beginning of the Outdoor Education Program under the direction of Don Rhamy and John Leunk. With its success, Neal Sommers and Herb Broda joined the team the next year. During the following 35 years, Neal Sommers and Gary Rogers kept the Outdoor Education Program running smoothly. In May, all 5th and 6th graders from Southeast will embark on the 51st annual Outdoor Education Camp adventure at Camp Wanake.

As Apple Creek Elementary prepares to close its doors, former students and faculty are invited to call the school to share their memories and reflect on the impact that Apple Creek Elementary has had on their lives. From nostalgic memories to heartfelt tributes, the final weeks of the school year will be filled with gratitude for the experiences shared within its walls.



## Fredericksburg Elementary

Established in the fall of 1891, Fredericksburg School initially served the students of Salt Creek Township as a high school. The school expanded in 1908 to include grades 1 through 8 and continued to grow. Kindergarten was added to the curriculum in 1958. Building additions were made in 1922, 1941, 1967, and 1989, which included more classrooms, a gymnasium, locker room, farm shop, and kitchen.



Athletics were a prominent fixture throughout the 20th century, with Fredericksburg teams winning many local tournaments and championships, especially in baseball, basketball, and football.



Trophies from the wins can still be found at Lem's Pizza and the Fredericksburg Community Library. Our school mascot has changed several times over the years and has included a mountain burro named Topsy, a Native American, and a panther, known as the Fredericksburg Freddie.

Nearly 650 students graduated from Salt Creek High School/Fredericksburg High School between 1891 and 1955 when the area schools consolidated into the Southeast Local School District.

# SOUTHEAST LOCAL BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

We remain as busy as ever as we finish our last year in the building. Kindergarteners are beginning to read, and first graders are adding and subtracting fluently. Our second graders are gearing up for a field trip to the Akron Zoo and third graders are preparing to run the final Amazing Race around the village.

Fourth graders have recently learned about marketing and voting, holding their own favorite cookie competition. Our fifth and sixth graders are preparing for camp week, and many of our seventh and eighth graders are preparing to complete their education and move into the workforce.

For many, this is a bittersweet transition. Generations of families have attended this school. The building has given us many opportunities and memories that we will forever cherish. However, it is not the bricks and mortar that make a school; it is the people. So as we move forward, we will continue to honor the past as we look to the future. New memories are to be made for the next generation to smile back on.



## Holmesville Elementary

Spring has swiftly unfolded at Holmesville Elementary and we're certain that the remainder of the year will pass just as quickly. Classes have been bustling with reading and math, plays, art projects, reader's theaters, and more. Our primary grades are gearing up to perform their spring musical and embark on field trips, while our fifth and sixth graders are getting ready for camp. Students have relished selecting their own party from a variety of choices for our most recent goal celebration, and they're also delighted to be getting outside in the sunshine for recess!



Our PTO has been bustling with BINGO Night and planning for our Spring Fling in May. The Spring Fling will once again feature carnival games and a Talent Show. Last year's Talent Show will be a tough act to follow, and we're excited to see what families have planned! Spring is in the air, and summer is just around the corner!



As we conclude our final year in the building, we will undoubtedly reflect on the time we've spent here. The building was initially constructed as a high school in 1921, with additions made in 1939, 1955, and 1989. The derecho of June 2022 tore off the roof of the east side of the building and caused extensive damage, but we were thrilled to be back up and running in time for school to commence that fall. In the earlier days, the high school mascot was a polar bear and the school colors were green and white. Many athletic events were hosted in the gymnasium over the years and you can still see remnants of the old ticket window outside our 5th-grade classroom. The building has undergone numerous changes over the years, but we will always carry with us many happy memories as we move forward to the new building.



# SOUTHEAST LOCAL BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS



Apple Creek



Fredericksburg



Holmesville



Mt. Eaton

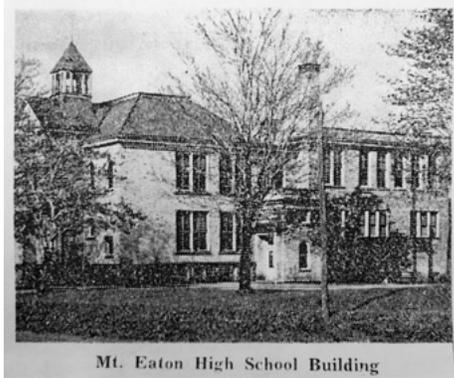


John R. Lea



Waynedale

## Mt. Eaton Elementary



Mt. Eaton High School Building

One of the oldest schoolhouses in Wayne County, what is presently known as Mt. Eaton Elementary School, was built in the late 1800's. The original school building had two rooms downstairs and two upstairs.

The gym, bathrooms, and other classrooms were added later. The current enrollment is 115 students and 40 staff in grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

In 1951, the Wayne County Board of Education agreed to create a new school district, and in 1953, Mt. Eaton joined Holmesville, Fredericksburg, and Apple Creek as the Southeast Local School District under the leadership of Superintendent, John R. Lea. The original school board included Veryl Rodecker of Mt. Eaton. Previously, Mt. Eaton had been a part of the Paint Local School District.

Current students and staff are preparing for a big move to the new Waynedale Local School District in the fall, a building for preschool through twelfth grade. There will be an Open House on June 1, 2024 at Mt. Eaton Elementary School for tours and community gathering to share memories made in this historic building.



The original school bell will be hanging in the new Historical Hallway at Waynedale.



## John R. Lea

A plaque next to the gym at John R. Lea still stands and states, "Erected in 1954-By A Free Vote Of The People." The building opened during the 1955 school year as Waynedale High School under leadership of the superintendent, John R. Lea, and principal, Harold Henderson. The building remained as the high school until 1967. After that year, the school became John R. Lea Junior High and then transitioned again to John R. Lea Intermediate School. During the 1993-1994 school year, the name changed to John R. Lea Middle School.

Housing both seventh and eighth grade, the middle school soon became what we know it to be today. The school's most memorable events were/are the class trip to Washington DC and the Veterans Day programs. The class trip began in 1998 and is still going on today for our eighth grade students. The JRL Veterans Day Program began in 1999. JRL was a founding partner of the Library of Congress Veterans Oral History Project.



We look forward to what is to come at Waynedale Middle School. We will always treasure all the people and memories associated with John R. Lea Middle School.



# SOUTHEAST LOCAL BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

## Waynedale High School



*Mill 'n' Dale*

As we get closer to moving into the new building, I thought I would do a little research about Waynedale High School beyond the brick and mortar facts like how this building opened in 1967. More interesting was the information I gathered from people who not only went to school here, but taught at Waynedale for many years.

These were people who could really provide a true overview of what Waynedale High School has been and is like. After interviewing some of our current and former staff, I have developed what I believe is an accurate description of what it means to be a student and staff member at Waynedale High School.

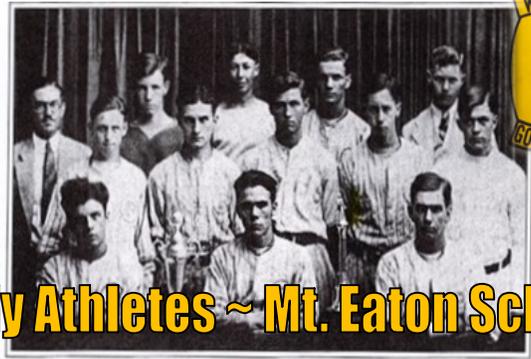
The high school building itself has not changed much in these past 57 years. Some of the rooms have taken on a new look, but the overall building has not. Beth Reed, who taught for Waynedale High School for 22 years, described Waynedale as "an old friend." Many staff and students would agree with this, seeing as how it is a common trend that many former Waynedale students become part of our staff, in addition to those who come to our district to teach from other places. This has helped to create a climate that is student and staff friendly, and one where all of us realize and appreciate what Waynedale has to offer.



Ron Dobson, who taught English at Waynedale for 48 years, shared that it has always been like a family, speaking as a former student and teacher at Waynedale. This is something our current staff and students would agree on, too. Waynedale is a place dedicated to creating and maintaining positive relationships. We do everything we can to create an environment that is inviting to join and remain at. This is a culture and climate I hope will always exist at Waynedale High School because it is truly what makes Waynedale, Waynedale.

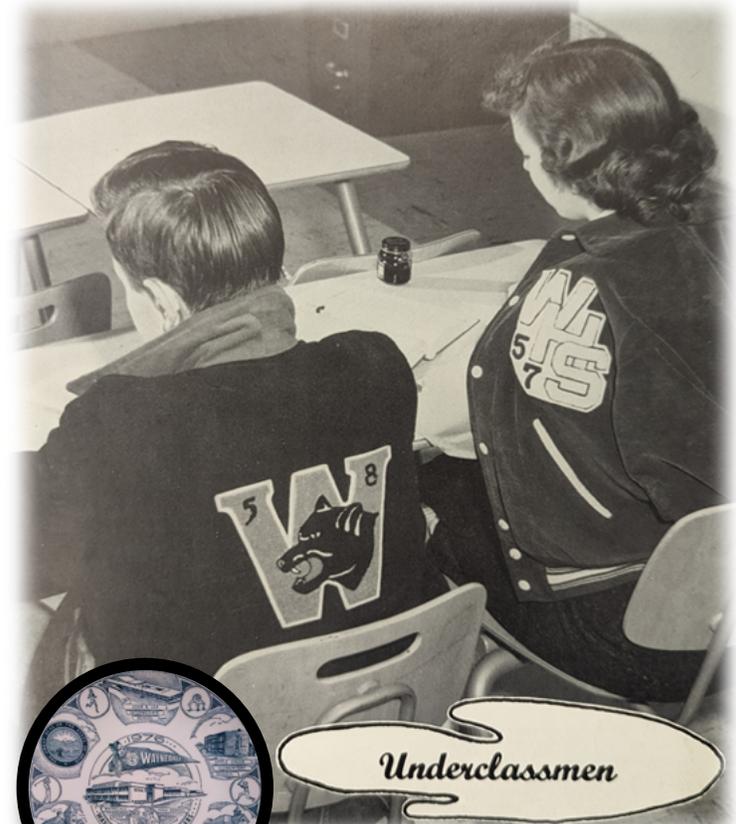


## School Memories ~ Remember When...



## Early Athletes ~ Mt. Eaton School

EARLY ATHLETES - Pictured are the baseball champions of Wayne County in 1929. They were also champions in northeastern Ohio and were third place in the state of Ohio, the highest Mt. Eaton School ever placed. Pictured in row one: Oren Hasenstein, Donald Spangle and Paul Graber. Row two, Coach Dwight Hobb, Paul Hofacre, Clarence Jeandrevon, Paul Doder, Ross Gardner, and Wilson Matter. Row three: Veril Rodocker, Vernon Doder, James Snievels and Dean Dazorbets, manager



*Underclassmen*



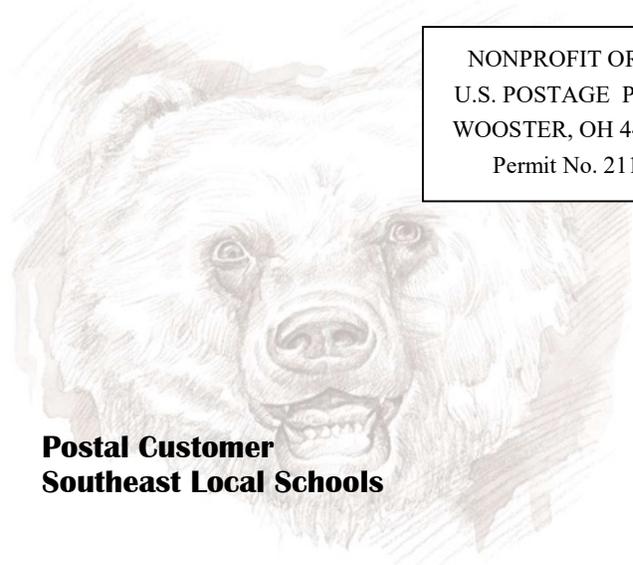


*Watch for our next newsletter coming in the Fall!*

Southeast Local Schools

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### *Inside this Issue...*

- ◆ Superintendent's Message
- ◆ Building Updates / Historical View
- ◆ Retirees
- ◆ Back to School Date / Times
- ◆ New Building Info
- ◆ Current Building Tours

**CURRENT BUILDING TOURS** ~ *ALL current buildings will be open for the community to tour on June 1, 2024 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.*

**NEW BUILDING TOURS** (@ Waynedale Local Schools) ~ *Aug. 10, 2024 from 9:00 am - 12 noon*

## **Orientation / Student Check-In** *Meet the Teacher*

**All students will be visiting the new building at:**

*Waynedale Local School District*  
**9052 Dover Rd.**  
**Apple Creek, OH 44606**

*All elementary students are scheduled to attend the "Meet Your Teacher Night" on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.*

**MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL:**

*All middle school and high school students are scheduled to attend the "Back to School Night" on August 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.*



*Waynedale Local Board Office will remain at the same location: 9048 Dover Rd., Apple Creek, OH 44606*

# HAPPY *retirement*

- Audrey Mast, Bus Driver
- Art Parrot, Bus Driver
- Carrie Molnar, Teacher
- Sheryl Smith, Bus Driver
- Jim Todaro, Teacher
- Donald Miller, Bus Driver
- Carol Hauenstein, Teacher
- Greg Nofsinger, Bus Driver
- Kim Yoder, Secretary
- Diane Raber, Cafeteria

